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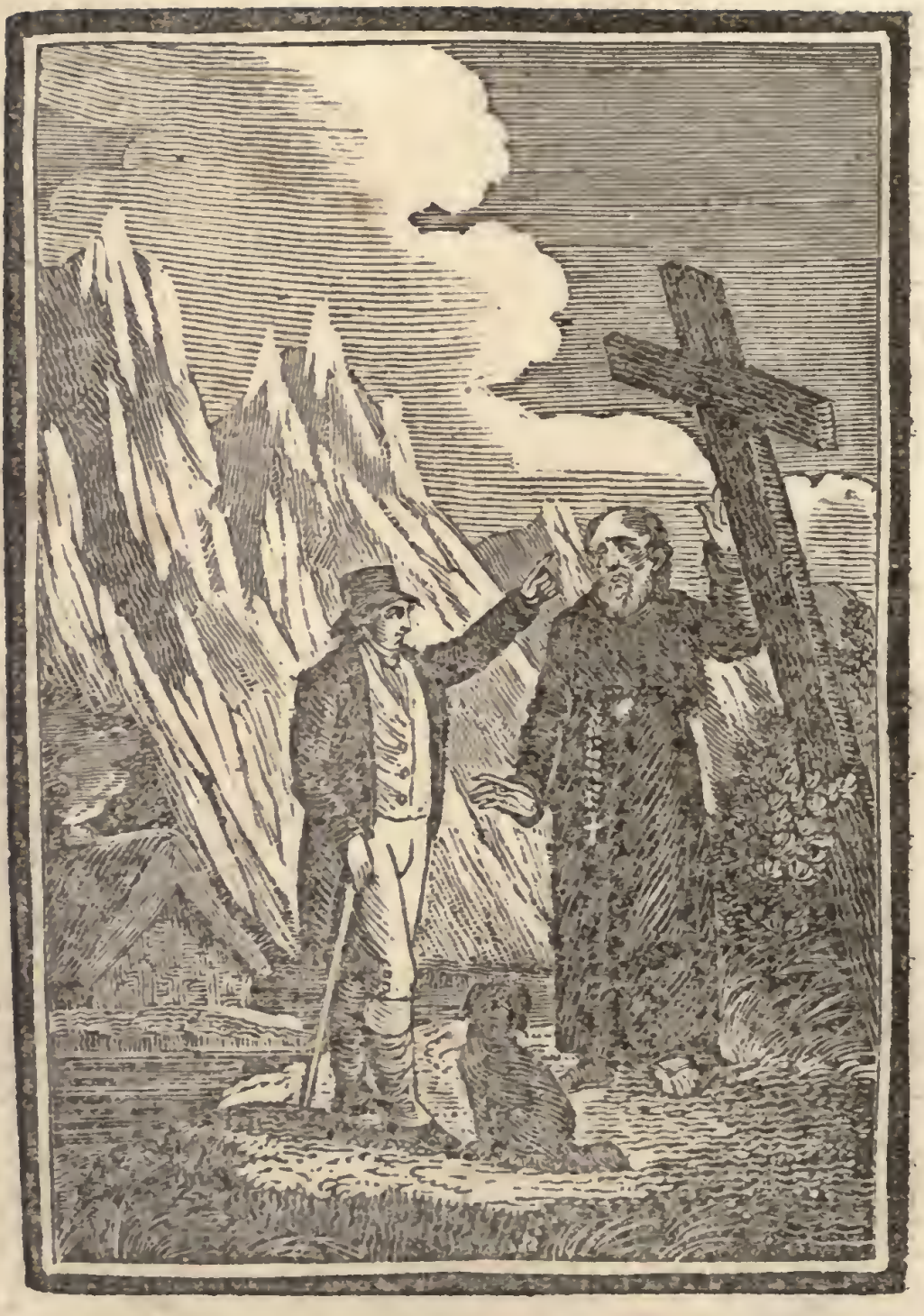

THE HERMIT OF ST. GOTHARD.

MUNGO;

OR,

THE LITTLE TRAVELLER.

TO WHICH IS ANNEXED,

THE SEVEN WONDERS

OF THE

WORLD.

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MUNGO, &c.

IT was the joyous festival of Christmas, when little Mungo entertained his friends and neighbours. But, in the first place, it is necessary to inform the reader, that Mungo was the favourite dog of a gentleman in the country. Mungo was of the breed commonly called King Charles's, and by his beauty, his good disposition, and his attachment, richly deserved the affection of his master. He had attended this master on a tour through the greatest part of Europe, and had thus acquired a great deal of experience. Trusting to his great sense, and desirous of paying him a deserved compliment, Mungo's master gave him permission to invite all the dogs of his acquaintance to an entertainment in his house. Accordingly, the guests were invited on a day appointed, and as they arrived, were received with a hospitable welcome by Mungo. When dinner was ready, they sat down, and a merry set they were. At Mungo's right sat Bob the spotted terrier, celebrated for his virtues

and his genius. On his left was Cæsar, the true old English mastiff; who, content with the inheritance of usefulness and integrity, spent his days in domestic life, the vigilant guardian of his master's property. Next to him, was the Shepherd Dog, whose meagre countenance and rough coat showed him an unfit companion for the present company; but he had been introduced by Cæsar, who was himself a dog of respectability, and, with true British spirit, would have resented any slight to his friend; Mungo, therefore, smiled a welcome on the vulgar visiter. Then came the Bull Dog, of coarse, unsocial manners; but whose well-known courage, and fighting disposition kept his companions in awe. Next sat the obedient spaniel—the accommodating friend of man; equally the companion of his field-sports or fire-side. A party of sporting dogs concluded the assembly: the Hound, with his long, hanging ears; the sensible and well-educated Pointer; the lank Greyhound; and the brisk little Terrier.

A plentiful meal of good fare was before them. Mopsey, the turnspit, was their cook; and little Snap, the tinker's cur, waited on the company.

The cold blast howled through the ancient mansion, and the hail rattled against the windows; but a large fire blazed cheerfully within, and the dogs, feeling the comforts of their situation, drew sociably around. "My friends and neighbours," cried Mungo, "how heartily do I rejoice, that after so many perils and dangers, my master has permitted me to return to the seat of his ancestors and mine. From this entertainment, I have excluded all but English friends; yet I am ready to confess that I was treated with hospitality by many foreigners, and had a very pleasant travelling companion in our neighbour the Dane's cousin." Mungo was himself of royal race. His figure was small, but his black, curling coat, and his brilliant eye, rendered him a dog of unrivalled beauty. When a puppy, he had been vain and trifling; but age and the hardships of travelling had worn it off. He had still much family pride; but, with all the address of a courtier, he made his visiters speak of themselves before he related his own adventures. As a brother traveller, he first complimented Master Bob, on the just celebrity he had so honourably acquired. Honest Cæsar joined in the tribute

of praise; and at the same time thanked him for the honourable mention he had made of his ancestor, the Ditchly Dog, in his memoirs. As some of the company had not heard it, Cæsar was requested to repeat it. He arose with real pleasure to comply with their wishes, and again reposed himself with increased satisfaction.

Mungo next addressed the Shepherd's Dog, condoling with him on his being reduced to a peasant's life, as he had heard it positively asserted, in his travels, that his family was so extremely ancient, as to leave little doubt of its being the parent stock from which the whole race had sprung. Old Keeper thanked him for his attention, but confessed himself satisfied with his station. The labour and cold to which he was exposed, had made him hardy, and rendered the coarse fare of his master palatable. His life of toil was not without its comforts. True, he had no leisure for amusement, like the hound, the pointer, and the spaniel; but his master, feeling the value of his service, was much attached to him; and he had, also, a family, hardy and useful as himself, and when a holiday occurred, he visited his honest

neighbour Cæsar, on whose invitation he had presumed to enter the present company.

Mungo next chatted with the Pointer, on the advantages of education; and reminded him of the circumstance mentioned in classical history, so much to the honour of their race. To the country dogs, he explained the anecdote of the dog of Ulysses recollecting his master after an absence of twenty years. Ponto, who remembered the effeminacy of his early days, cast a look of much meaning towards his friend the Greyhound; who, in his turn, was complimented by his host, on his great superiority over those of his race, to whom he had been known in Italy. To the Bull Dog, he spoke of the public fights in Spain; and regretted that men, instead of dogs, were now so often invited to subdue that powerful animal. He, whose brutish manners could never be civilized, only replied by expressing his indignation, that the amusement of bull-baiting, (the only one worthy of a dog of spirit,) should thus be lost, and substituted by those paltry sports, degrading to a manly spirit; and he cast a look of great contempt towards the party of hunters,

who, in their nature partaking of all the cheerful and frank hospitality of their masters, defended their cause with spirit. —Mungo, perceiving that something unpleasant was likely to happen, now interfered. He told them that he had hoped to afford them some amusement by the recital of his travels, he therefore prayed that peace and good-humour might prevail. They all grinned approbation at the proposal, and the spaniel wagged his tail with additional complacency. A silence prevailed, which met with no interruption, except from a young terrier, who frisked after the mice, which he heard behind the wainscot, but his cousin Bob soon reduced him to order, and Mungo, the little traveller, began his adventures.

" It is not for me, my friends, to boast of the advantages which attended my youth, nor of the illustrious race from which I sprung: it was enough for me that my master felt their value. Yet this master, so deservedly loved by me, was not happy. I was then young; but I found that men, as well as puppies, had their attachments and their disappointments. I could never discover the exact

truth, although I constantly accompanied him in his visits to the object of his affections, for I scorned to listen to the gossipping stories of her French attendant, Flirt, who talked of intrigues and jealousies. Whatever might be the cause of his melancholy, it was fortunate for me, and for the world also, which I hope will be benefited by my memoirs, that he resolved to rub it off by travel. The usual route was planned, and we proceeded to France. As I mean to describe dogs and their manners, rather than the countries which they inhabit, I shall speak no more of them than is necessary to elucidate my story. The motion of the ship was intolerable, and I became so sick that I heartily wished myself back at our own fire-side again. It was some days after we landed before I recovered myself, when I was put into a carriage and hurried away to Paris.

PARIS

was then the resort of the gay, the idle, and the fashionable. I was immediately introduced to several of our own species, and was constantly engaged in large parties. At that time, Louis XVI. was seat-

ed on the throne of his ancestors—the idol of his people. The very name of royalty carried such attractions with it, that my master had only to name my descent, and I was every where received with that respect due to a dog of dignity. I was caressed. I frisked in the Thuilleries and at Versailles, and strutted with puppies of distinction. To my untravelled friends, it may be necessary to explain, that the latter was then a royal residence, the other a place of public resort.

So many British at this time visited France, that I might have been always with parties from our own country. I not only avoided, but I also blushed to acknowledge them, when chance threw them in my way. Nay, do not growl at the declaration, neighbour Cæsar; but I was ashamed to remark that contempt of politeness, which they thought so expressive of British courage and sincerity. To such lengths was this coarseness carried, that I have seen them snarl with a female for a bone, and drive a poor invalid from the repose of his own cushion.

In this scene of gaiety and pleasure, I confess, I saw no heroic action performed—nothing that could raise our race in my

eyes; and I began to think that we were formed for higher things than to run races on terraces, sport among parterres of flowers, fetch a lady's glove, and sit on our hind legs for a saucer of cream. Still I could not fly those fascinating scenes. As my apology, I can only say that I was young and vain, and that youth and vanity love to be flattered and caressed. But I began at length to suspect their sincerity, and even to doubt their taste, when I heard a lady declare in a whisper, her preference of a long, shaggy coat of dingy white, to mine of jet black. Nor did Paris suit my master's turn of mind; and we left it, as he chose to go with a friend to a southern province. They went in a carriage, whilst I, for the benefit of my health, was ordered to keep with their Danish attendant on foot. As we trotted on together, he amused and interested me with the various incidents he had encountered in his travels. But the life of indolence I had led at Paris, rendered my present fatigue almost insupportable; however, I was too proud to complain, and therefore soon became used to it, and from the exercise of the day I gained nights of the soundest repose.

The tour was one calculated to give pleasure to all who had sense to feel it. It was the season of the vintage; that is, the time of year, when the inhabitants of these southern regions gather the grapes, and prepare from them that liquor of which men are so fond. All was joy and merriment: the song, the laugh, was every where heard; and when the labours of the day were ended, the pipe was the signal for the dance, which was often begun by the father of the family, for a Frenchman never seems old. Before the door of the cabin, the table was spread with home-made bread, and cheese, and delicious fruits. With a manner as unlike rustic shyness, as it was distant from bold familiarity, our masters were invited to partake; and to us, also, their hospitality was extended. At length we reached

MONTPELLIER,

so beneficial to the health of man, so destructive to the happiness of dogs; for I here beheld filth and misery, such as I had never seen before, The looks of the people were so meagre, and bespoke them so destitute of the common comforts of life, that I rarely left my master's side, lest I should

be devoured by them. Here, also, I was pestered with fleas, flies, and every kind of vermin. Naturally of a social turn, I love to make acquaintance wherever they are to be found, and the intimacy I now commenced, was with the friend and companion of a noted criminal. Start not, my friends, at the declaration; remember, fidelity is always a virtue, and as we do not understand human laws, we have nothing to do with those that break them. The master of my friend was an Italian count, and had been guilty of a crime which men call forgery; that is, defrauding a fellow-creature of that which was to form part of his support, and for this he was sentenced to the galleys for life. These are large ships belonging to a certain king, where criminals, chained together, have no covering but the sky; no place of rest but the hard boards; and with so much filth about them, that the poorest of our race may think his bed of straw a luxury, which is denied to these unfortunate wretches.

The master of my friend was permitted to live on shore, where he gained a subsistence by selling stockings, and other things manufactured by the slaves. Exiled from all society, he found in his

dog the faithful follower of all his fortunes.

I need not say how rejoiced I was to leave the place, and we traversed some beautiful scenes previous to our entering on that vast chain of heights called the Alps. The way before us was now both frightful and dangerous; and the road so narrow, as only to be pursued on the backs of mules, or in chairs carried on the shoulders of men. This mode of travelling is seldom used but by ladies; but mortified am I to confess, that I was obliged to proceed in this unmanly way. The companion of my master was in such ill health, that he could not support the agitation of mind, as the mules, which is their custom, approached with him to the very edge of the precipice. He was, therefore, conveyed in a chair, and I was compelled to be his companion. I made an attempt to escape from the confinement, and to pursue my way on foot, but was at length reconciled to my situation by the following anecdote, related by my master. It appears that an ancestor of my own, was once travelling on this very road, with two English gentlemen, and was suffered to run by their side, when a most ferocious

wolf suddenly rushed down, and carried off my unfortunate relation before any help could be given.

After travelling through this terrific country, we at length reached that happy part of the world, called

SWITZERLAND.

As I have heard that a traveller of much greater eminence than myself, has described, in language the most fascinating, the majestic and beautiful scenery of this country—the simple inhabitants—their wise laws and customs—I shall not presume to expatiate on the subject. It was enough to gratify me, that my master here found the repose he had long been seeking. It was impossible for a heart like his, not to be penetrated by the hospitality and courteous kindness of the inhabitants. My own reception was less flattering. To gain the friendship of this mountain race, it was necessary to be useful and amiable. Rank was entirely disregarded, and even looked on with contempt, if unattended by virtue: but, kind and humane, they never treated me with harshness.

Still, cities and the busy hum of men,

suited not my master; and, taking leave of his friend, he quitted the agreeable society to which he had been introduced, to wander through a country so grand, yet so terrific, that nothing but the love I bore him, could tempt me to hazard my existence by following him. We sometimes lodged in the cabin of the peasant; and often in the cell of the hermit, or within the abbey's walls. These are the dwellings of religious men, who have quitted the pleasures and employments of the world. The first retires to a solitary abode; the latter form themselves into societies, and their domains are generally the richest in the country. Some of them enjoy within their walls, not merely the necessaries, but many of the luxuries of life. To a priory of this sort, we now went on a visit of some days.

I found here several dogs, who, notwithstanding the supposed abstinence of their masters, were fat and well-looking. Such kind of acquaintance I had never wished, not expecting to find liberal notions among those whose existence was rendered so useless by seclusion from society. My ideas were verified, for petty jealousies and disputes marked the

whole tenor of their lazy lives; and yet, of the hospitality and kindness of their masters, mine spoke warmly. His long stay with the good fathers surprised me; at length, I understood that he was waiting for a favourable day to ascend Mont Blanc, said to be the highest mountain in the world. This cost me a sleepless night. He was with strangers: nobody loved him as I did, and I determined to follow him. His commands for me to remain at the priory, and the sneers of my companions when they heard my intention, only strengthened my resolution: so much will love conquer natural timidity. On the eventful morning, I followed their steps at a distance; and had ascended, unobserved, a considerable way, until I came to a frightful chasm rent in the icy mountain. My master and his company must have passed it by means of those leaping holes, which they fix in the ice by iron spikes at the end of them. To attempt it, was to me instant death; to return, was to lose sight of my master in the hour of danger. I howled in despair: my cries were heard by them, and one of the guides had the humanity to return and convey me over. After many

hours of perilous travelling, we reached a hut, where it was proposed to leave me; but I soon found means to break from my confinement, and bounded after them, over the most frightful heights and crags, encouraged now by the caresses of my master, who was astonished at my perseverance. A tent had been carried with us, which was erected on the congealed snow, and there, huddled together, we spent the night. At the dawn, we resumed a journey too terrible for description. Our purpose was accomplished, and we reached the top, calculated to be fifteen thousand, six hundred and sixty-two feet above the surface of the sea. Here, on the highest pinnacle, I stood triumphant, where never dog had stood before. Faint, and nearly exhausted, after such an exertion, I am not ashamed to confess that I was glad to accept the assistance of the guides. We descended in safety to the priory, where compliments and congratulations, on our courage and perseverance, were poured upon us. After some days of rest, we took leave of the good fathers, for so the inhabitants of the priory were called, and pursued our journey.

The winter was now approaching, and travellers ceased to wander through this wild country; but my master, as I have before shown, was not a common traveller. As a proof of it, he determined to spend the winter in those icy regions, where scarcely the hardy native dares to dwell. We took up our abode for some weeks on the mountain of Uri, on which a few huts are scattered; and where the winter, which lasts eight months, is so severe, that there can be but little intercourse with each other. Their winter store consists of cheese, hard bread, potatoes, and the flesh of one cow. What a prospect for us both!

The people who spend their time through this dreary season, in making cloth and linen, could be no company for my master; but to me, still more attached to the charms of society, it was even worse. There was only one dog in the house, a genuine Swiss, who thought his own country the finest in the world; and, never wishing to stray beyond his native mountains, was not likely to take any interest in the adventures of a traveller like myself.

Nor did I feel much inclined to associate with this goat-herd, whose talents were confined to the guarding of a peasant's flock. But a gentleman, whose services in this instance I shall ever remember, advised my master to quit this place, and if still resolved to winter in regions so desolate, to go to the valley of St. Gothard, as wild and solitary as the present; and even still more destitute of inhabitants, as there, was only the house of a good friar, who had taken up his abode there merely to shelter any poor wanderer who might reach his lonely habitation. We met with a reception courteous and hospitable.

Father Francis, so well known to my friend Mr. Coxe, foregoing all the comforts of society, with the most benevolent heart and the kindest intention, exposed to the severity of winter the most inclement, has lived here for twenty years; and having collected a sum, not exceeding three hundred pounds, from his countrymen, and from the generosity of strangers, has erected a commodious house, consisting of several apartments.

To display the singular merits of this good man, I must say something of the valley where he dwells. It does not produce a single blade of corn, or contain a single shed; and the sides of the mountains are barely sprinkled with short grass. It is closed in by rude and naked rocks, whose hollows are filled with masses of snow. Beyond, rise the glaciers, or vast mountains of ice, which the summer suns cannot melt. Such was our winter abode; but the internal comforts were many.

The lakes supplied excellent fish, which were preserved for the winter store; and good butter and cheese could be produced even in this dreary spot. The simple fare of the master was confined to fish and the produce of his little dairy; but a cow had been slaughtered for the more substantial food of his guests. Father Francis was not only content, but he was happy; and to be so in such a situation, he must both possess a benevolent heart, and a cultivated understanding: he was, therefore, both a pleasant and an instructive companion to my master. I also felt the charms of society; for the good friar had two dogs, kind and gentle as himself. There were also other visiters, more humble than myself; but I

must at the same time confess, far more useful. They were the attendants of a chasseur, who was spending the winter with the friar. Chasseur is the name given to men who hunt the chamois, and other animals which inhabit these fearful heights; feeding their families with the flesh, and selling their skins; and those of the chamois are so valuable, that it is thought a good year when a dozen of them are taken. This animal is about the size of a goat, of a dusky yellow brown; the throat and belly, white. The horns are slender, upright, about eight inches long, and hooked backwards at their tips: their colour is black. The hair is rather long, and the tail short. The eyes are round, sparkling and beautiful. These animals are found in flocks, from four to eighty, and even a hundred, dispersed upon the mountain crags, where they select the most delicate herbage they can find. Their sight is very penetrating; and their sense of smelling and hearing, remarkably acute. When the wind blows in a proper direction, they are said to be able to scent a man at the distance of a mile and upwards. They scramble with astonishing agility among the rocks; and when they descend, will throw themselves down across a rock which is nearly per-

pendicular, and of thirty feet in height, without a single prop to support their feet. In descending, they strike their feet three or four times against the rock, till they arrive at a proper resting-place below. The spring of the sinews is so great, that, when leaping about, one would imagine them to be possessed of wings instead of limbs.

None but a native could follow this daring trade, or preserve his footing on such dizzy heights. I need not add, that in those expeditions, the dogs always go with their masters; and those belonging to the friar were often of the party. Judge of the confidence my master reposed in my courage and activity, when he proposed that I should share in an employment of which he had not the resolution himself to partake. I will not describe the terrible agitation I suffered; but I had the prudence to conceal my fears, yet was not able to join in the sounds of joy which my companions expressed, as our undertaking commenced.

The ascending Mont Blanc was easy, compared with the dangers into which we were now led. I was no longer able to suppress my terrors, and I expressed them

with my wish to return, by melancholy whinings, and every other means in my power. The chasseur soothed and encouraged me; nor did my companions despise me, for fears which were the natural result of a situation so new. But even those fears I was able, in time, to overcome; and at length I pursued my way with as much activity as my companions, although with inferior skill.

When not engaged in such bold adventures, we frolicked over the valleys of ice, and plunged into the hollows of snow. All this was of wonderful service to my constitution, which had, early in life, been weakened by indolence, and pampered by delicacies; and I now enjoyed the blessings which flow from temperance and exercise, in the valley of St. Gothard.

Here I willingly could have spent a life of retired happiness; for the season of summer also brought its pleasures, as then, the peasantry bring the flocks and herds to the neighbouring mountains; which, affording a few months of pasturage, they make their cheese and butter for the winter, visiting the good friar on the Sabbath, and offering their thanks and praises to their Maker. The worthy pastor, in re-

turn, would often cheer their labours with his visits. His dogs went with him, and were always regaled with milk. But a circumstance, entirely unexpected, shortened our stay, and we began a journey, which few people, at such a season, ever thought of attempting. By means, of which I was not informed, a letter was sent to our worthy pastor, which told him of the dangerous illness of a beloved friend of his, and his earnest desire to see him. His residence was at an Abbey many leagues distant, and in such a season, the way was deemed impracticable; but he who could live twenty years in so dreary a spot, for the good of his fellow-creatures, was not likely to shrink from any office of humanity. My master resolved to share it with him; and, attended by the chasseur and all my friends of the valley, we began our journey.

To us hunters of the Alps it was by no means unpleasant; but to my master it must have been one of great hardship; for, after traversing rugged heights the whole day, we had no lodging but a cavern, or a hovel which had been raised by a summer farmer. We could take but few things with us; but we got some

kind of supply from little shops, which, on account of the severity of the winter, the inhabitants are obliged to leave; but they put up parcels of tobacco, cheese, and such things as are not likely to be hurt by the weather, with the price marked on each article, which the relieved traveller never fails to deposit. Happy, honest people, where mutual confidence, and mutual benevolence are so firmly established!

We finished our journey without accident, and arrived at a very noble abbey, the residence of a rich and numerous society. This also was secluded from the world, but far different from the solitary abode of Father Francis. Here, the pious men, with their numerous servants, formed almost a little town; and some peasants, who rented lands of the Abbey, had their little white-washed dwellings scattered about in this beautiful glen, in which cultivation and eternal spring seemed to reign; and yet it was bounded by snow-capt mountains, from whence the avalanches, which are vast masses of congealed snow, are suddenly precipitated, bringing destruction on the hapless traveller that may pass. And here

it was that I heard of convents, where many of our own species had exhibited wonderful powers, in searching for those who were unhappily bewildered among those frightful places, taking with them refreshments, in a sort of basket, suspended to their collars; but as I never had the happiness of being introduced to these useful friends of ours, I will not positively vouch for the fact, having been careful, in the recital of my travels, most strictly to adhere to truth.

With the friends who accompanied me, and those which I found here, I spent my time very pleasantly; but I was sorry to see melancholy again visit my poor master, who would often quit the agreeable company at the abbey, to wander among the wilder boundaries of the vale. I also left my companions, to attend on him; and this brings me to the proudest period of my existence, when, like my noble friend, on my right, I became the preserver of my master's life. I had remained a considerable way behind, foolishly employed in endeavouring to dislodge a mouse which had crept into a small cavity, when a tremendous noise, like that of thunder, assailed my ears,

I looked fearfully towards the place. My dear master was no longer to be seen; he was buried beneath an avalanche! I ran to the spot. I endeavoured to force my way through the snow, in vain. I howled in agony, then recollecting that this lamentation was useless, and that my own personal exertions were alike unavailing, I hastened towards the abbey, and, with the most forcible gestures, made them comprehend the misfortune which had happened. I led the way. I saw masters and servants all unite in removing the snow. I also added my feeble efforts; till, at length, my beloved benefactor was restored to me, but so much bruised, that he was confined to his room for several weeks. I never left him. I was now become a general favorite with every inhabitant of the valley; and I gained by courage and fidelity, that love and respect which would have been denied to illustrious descent or mere personal attractions. The praises of such honest people, afforded me greater gratification than all the adulation which had been lavished on me by French courtiers; and, I hope, I quitted Switzerland, a wiser and a better dog.

When the summer returned, my master took an affectionate leave of our friendly hosts, and we departed for imperial

ROME.

My master had spoken with such veneration of the arts and the genius which once flourished in this country, that I thought even the animals must be superior to the rest of their tribe; and I reflected with shame on my own neglected education, and the frivolous amusements I had pursued in Paris. In this respect I was greatly mistaken, for I here found a race, weak and trifling, intriguing and revengeful. The higher ranks, with whom I associated, wore the semblance of ease, sprightliness, and good humour; and those of the race, who have visited this country, have always been admired for elegance and activity of form. I also was caught by this pleasing exterior; and, with that unfortunate pliability of mind, entered into all their amusements. My eyes, however, soon opened to their deceitful dispositions, and I found safety only by keeping constantly with my master.

By following him in his rambles, I found also that man here was cruel and revengeful. It seemed there existed a weak and wicked law, that every murderer who could take refuge in a church, was safe from his pursuers; no one daring to seize him in so sacred an asylum. They had always friends to supply them with food, and, in time, to provide their escape. My master was one evening intently surveying some painting, in an obscure part of the church, when one of those wretches, wrapped in a long cloak, with murder and revenge scowling on his dark countenance, glided by us. Even I shook with fear at the assassin's sight; and my master, casting towards him a look of horror, left the place. I pretend not to say that this disgusting circumstance hastened him away, but on the following day, we took our leave of Rome.

Wearied by the scenes in which I had lately been engaged, I pursued the journey without interest, and entered

NAPLES,

with feelings very unlike those of my master. Yet here, it seemed, I was to ac-

quire a name, attended with circumstances not very pleasing to myself. To some of my friends it may be necessary to relate, that near this city is a burning mountain, from which, at certain seasons, showers of hot ashes, and streams of liquid fire descend.

Some hundred years since, a city was overwhelmed by it, and men, as well as dogs, destroyed, so that not a vestige of the town itself was to be seen. It was only a few years since, that part of this town was opened; and a way made into it, by which, with the aid of torches, the curious descend several hundred feet to view it. Unfortunately, my master and myself were among the number. Here habitations were left entire; the paintings on the walls, and even the signs of their trades, were still visible; furniture remained; even bread and other provisions were petrified, so as to resemble stone.

We entered the market-place, where no sound but that of our own footsteps was heard. Nothing could exceed the awful stillness of the place: my master felt it, and in observing some writing on a wall, where soldiers had been lodged, he seemed to reflect on the years which

had passed away since the hands which traced it had mouldered in the dust. He threw himself on a bench, and I rested at his feet. Wearied by my rambles I fell asleep, but judge of my horror when I awoke, and found myself buried alive in this subterraneous city.

It was evident I had slept some hours, and was forsaken by my company. Means of escape, or of subsistence, I had none. A lingering death was before me; for it was seldom that travellers were permitted to visit it. I began to grope about; then I fancied myself entangled with the skeletons of men and animals. I threw myself on the ground, and exhausted myself first by barking, and then with howling; when, terrified by the dismal echo which the deserted walls returned, I lay in silent despair, spending a night of extreme horror. At length, a faint light glimmered on the distant walls, and I heard my own name pronounced by my dear master, who, on return of day, had again descended into this frightful place, to restore to light and life his grateful companion. A gentleman of the party laughed at the adventure, and said, many an antiquary, on our return, would envy Mungo the traveller.

for having spent a night in Herculaneum, I confess I claim no merit in the affair, but was vulgar enough to exhibit great symptoms of joy on my release.

An adventure still more alarming soon awaited me, and I had reason to deplore the gloomy taste of my master, which led him to such dark abodes; for his next visit was to a cavern a mile long, hollówed out of a mountain, and dark at midday. I thought of my late adventure, and returning to the entrance, determined to await in the open air his return.

At a small distance I discovered a group of people, and, with an idle curiosity, I wanted to know what they were doing; but no sooner did I approach than I was eagerly seized by a ferocious looking fellow, and, from hearing a young gentleman remonstrate with them on the cruelty of the experiment, I learned that the cave at the entrance of which they stood, contained the property of making any animal which was thrown into it expire in dreadful agonies. To prove this, I had been eagerly seized; but at the very instant I was about to be thrown into this horrible place, my master appeared and rescued me.

As I had determined never again to quit him for a moment, I soon after found myself in a large square, where a bull was baited. As it is a favorite amusement with one of my friends present, I will not call it an inhuman sport: still, I cannot regret that increased refinement which has nearly banished it from among us. Great sagacity and courage were displayed, and I have no doubt that I might have contracted some valuable friendships with those heroes, had I not formed the resolution of making no more acquaintance so long as I remained in the Italian states, where I experienced so much danger, vexation, and disgrace. My master's next visit was to

VENICE,

a town built on the sea; and here, for the first time, I experienced that listlessness of mind, that want of something to do, for which I have heard the English are so remarkable. I had no amusement but to lounge for hours in the window of our splendid apartment, to watch the dismal gondolas, which are a kind of boats covered with a black awning. No cheerful sound is heard, for there can be

no foot passengers; no rattling of carriages; no street parties of dogs or people; and I could have no exercise, but when taken by my master to St. Mark's Square, the only spot of land in the city; and this was always so much crowded, that, with all my care, I incessantly got under the feet of the passengers. How joyfully did I hear the declaration of my master to visit Spain. By entering into particulars of my journey to that kingdom, I fear to become tedious; suffice it, therefore, to say, that we took Malta and Sicily in our way; and that, at the latter place, I had the resolution to accompany my master to Mount Etna, and even to peep into the terrific crater, or mouth of the burning mountain, from which issue those streams of fire I have before described. But I have heard the inhabitants rejoice at this, for when it does not break out, it brings inevitable destruction in the form of those most dreadful things called earthquakes. Such are the natural horrors to which this country is subject."

Old Keeper, exhausted by the labours of the day, now snored aloud: and the young Terrier, by his gentle barking, showed that he was dreaming of other

things than ruined cities and burning mountains. Mungo had too much sense and politeness to wish to weary his visiters, he therefore thanked them for the honour of their attention, and hoped to be again favoured with their company on the following evening, when he would finish the recital of his adventures. After returning their thanks, the dogs all arose, shook their coats, and departed to their respective homes.

End of the First Part.

THE SECOND PART

OF

MUNGO'S TRAVELS.

THE following evening, the same party again sociably assembled, all excepting the Bull-dog, who preferred going with his friend the butcher to a boxing-match, rather than join a circle, where his favourite amusement was held in contempt. Mungo once more welcomed them to his fire-side, and, at their earnest request, he went on with his adventures.

" Elated by the character we had heard of the Spaniards, we entered their dominions with the highest satisfaction. But whatever virtues may belong to the higher ranks, I fear they do not descend to those of the lower order; for we heard of hordes of banditti, and we saw numbers of crosses erected, to point out the places where murders had been committed. I passed on with fear and trembling, but fortunately we escaped all dangers.

"The inns, or posados as they are called, were not only extremely filthy, but so ill supplied with provisions, that we hastened on, as fast as possible, to the capital. Here I was introduced to Don Sancho, a grandee pointer of the first order. I confess I never beheld so majestic a form; but I had soon reason to suspect that I was indebted for the polite reception I received, rather to my own illustrious birth, than to that frank hospitality which we conceive to be the stranger's due.

"By way of amusing me as a visiter, I was taken with him into the field, although I had hinted that my education and pursuits were of a very different nature; but Don Sancho was conscious of his own brilliant talents, and wished, no doubt, to dazzle by his accomplishments. Unaccustomed to field sports myself, I pretend not to judge how he hunted, or how immoveable he stood: my master pronounced it excellent, and I have no doubt that he merited those praises which have been lavished on his family. If he felt contempt for my ignorance, his politeness led him to conceal it; and finding I could neither partake of,

nor enjoy his favourite sports, he remained at home with me, where I confess, I became quite weary of reposing on velvet cushions, with great dons and donnas; for we seldom went out. Thus they imitate their masters, who with music serenade the fair object of their affections; and she is happy if she can peep at him through the lattice of her prison; for the manner in which ladies are confined, allows them but little more liberty than what a prisoner enjoys, Here is none of that social intercourse which prevails with us; none of that friendly familiarity between dogs and men.

" I was glad sometimes to take a ramble with my master, and repose beneath hedges of myrtle and groves of oranges, whose sweets filled the air with fragrance. In thus rambling about, we often encountered flocks of those useful animals the Merino sheep, whose wool is so valuable. They were guarded by a number of dogs, who appeared very sagacious and active. I never wanted for family pride, and yet, so weary was I of the formal circle to which I had been introduced, that I would gladly have entered into some intimacy with these rustics; but I should have

drawn on myself the resentment of my illustrious friends, who never mixed with their humbler neighbours. In all countries which I have visited, I have remarked that dogs catch the manners of their masters, and we discovered that the Spaniards are too proud to be social, happy, or agreeable.

" Most happily, as I then thought, for me, my master met with a gentleman who was going to Constantinople, and proposed to accompany him. To visit that city had ever been the first wish of my heart. With the prospect of such happiness before me, I willingly encountered all the hardships of a sea voyage. ' And shall the proud Englishman, the enlightened Christian,' I exclaimed, ' presume to hold in contempt the ignorance, the bigotry, and the arbitrary laws of the Turk? No; they are the wisest, the most humane people on the earth.' Such glowing ideas were raised by the information I had gained early in life, of their great love to our species. It is the only nation in the world where we are never persecuted, and where every puppy that opens its eyes on the light, instead of being condemned to the destructive pool, is raised with care, and cherished

with kindness. I expected also to find an hospital for the sick, as I have heard there is in some part of the world, an asylum of that kind for cats; and surely we have higher claims on the generosity of man.

" Well, my friends, the voyage over, at length appeared in all its glory, the city of

CONSTANTINOPLE.

" My master expressed his admiration at the beauty of its situation. With that I had nothing to do; but I was the first to leap into the boat which conducted us on shore, expecting to be welcomed by my fellow-animals, to their happy land. But it was not my fate to meet with any of them, and I attended my master to the city, which by no means answered to the idea of beauty which had been excited at a distance, as the streets were narrow and very dirty. To all this I paid but little attention, for I had thoughts of greater importance in my head; and having no dread of insult or treachery in this favoured land, I marked the house where my master took up his residence, and proceeded alone. A large party of dogs soon met

my view, but oh, how different their appearance! how different their employments! from what I had been taught to expect. Rough, ugly, and seemingly half-starved, they were scrambling, growling, and fighting about some filthy putrid animal, which had been thrown on the dunghill. 'Well,' I cried, 'in every country, there exists a low and vulgar class in society, of dogs as well as men, but I shall meet with some of the higher ranks presently; and I proceeded on my walk. Still, wherever I went, I saw large parties, all apparently of the same condition. It was astonishing that the sight of a stranger, and one whose appearance was so respectable as mine, did not excite their curiosity, if not the courtesy due to a traveller. Determining, at length, to know and be known, I joined their company; but it was only to witness a bloody and most obstinate affray between two dogs of a larger kind. This dreadful conflict, for I never witnessed one more brutish, was occasioned by a dispute about part of a dead horse, which the liberality of some great man had bestowed. It ended in one being maimed for life, and the conqueror, hardly in a better condition,

looked for the bone of contention in vain. Some of the party had, in the mean time, dragged it away and devoured it. I now attempted to introduce myself, but they cast such a suspicious, such a longing eye towards my sleek sides, that fearing they would turn cannibals, and devour their own species, I scampered away as fast as possible. I observed there was not the least variety in their persons: their coats were rough and coarse, and their features strongly resembled those of our Shepherd Dog; but I am convinced they have none of his vigilance, honesty, and courage."

Keeper wagged his tail, in acknowledgment of the compliment, and Mungo proceeded.

"Sickening with disappointment, and wondering from whence could proceed the false statement I had received of the enviable state of dog society in this country, I bent my steps towards the suburbs, where the noise of contention might not reach me, and where I could have leisure to arrange my thoughts, which were now in the wildest state of confusion. In a very retired spot, I saw a female nursing a very numerous litter of puppies. The charity of some person had bestowed on

her a piece of matting, and allowed her the shelter of a shed. I accosted her, and congratulated her on the happiness she enjoyed of living in a country where she had the peculiar good fortune of being allowed to raise all her numerous progeny. With the aspect of despair, she regarded her own spare form, and the miserable appearance of her young ones, and assured me, that, from wanting the power of affording them sustenance, she doubted even if she should be able to bring up two from the nine which now hung upon a starving mother. Her nature was more gentle than that of any other I had seen, which, perhaps, might be softened by her present situation. I began from her relation to doubt the humanity of that Turkish law which forbids the destruction of our kind, without enforcing them to support those lives which their pity had spared.

" This is indeed a republic of dogs, but unlike republics in general; for its members are rapacious, unjust, and ferocious. To the younger part of my hearers it may be necessary to explain, that a republic means a country, or large body of people, who have no king or governor, but are

all of equal rank, each taking the command in turn.

"From this female, as I observed, I learned that no dogs are ever killed; but they have no other subsistence than a few bones thrown from the houses, and the carrion which is found in their filthy streets. Sometimes from the careless hand of a child, for whom they are always on the watch, they snatch a scanty morsel. With such miserable resources as these, vast numbers of them perish; and, in the survivors, every amiable, every distinguished trait of our noble nature, is extinct. Continual want hardens the heart, and destroys our best feelings; and I considered the wretched crowd at Constantinople, as hardly higher in the scale of existence, than the murderous tribe which I afterwards encountered in Africa.

"Disappointed and disconsolate, I returned to our lodging, and happy should I have been to have seen any cur following his master, or any thing which could give an idea of social intercourse or domestic comfort. After this, I need not say that I formed no intimacy in the Turkish empire, and avoided their filthy streets as much as possible. Had I sooner

known the real character of the people, no such disappointments would have awaited me.

"They are the only nation on earth who are proud of being celebrated for murder. My master was assured, that a few years since, want, and in consequence of that, discontent also, prevailed in their army, which was numerous, and engaged in something of importance. A great man, whose disposition was well known, was desired to take the command. His first order was for large pits to be dug, and into those he threw the bodies of the soldiers, who were strangled on the slightest occasions. In three months he put to death thirty thousand, and was praised for such an expedient, to restore order and plenty. This anecdote is well authenticated. I will relate another equally so, to shew with what cool indifference they regard the lives of their fellow-creatures. My master and another gentleman paid a visit to the Vizier, who is the greatest man in the kingdom, next to the Grand Seignior, for so their sovereign is termed. Well, their conversation was interrupted by the entrance of an officer, who whispered the Vizier. He merely

waved his hand in a particular kind of manner, and resuming his smile, went on as before with the conversation. When the gentleman had finished their visit and departed, they saw nine human heads placed on the outer gate, which explained the meaning of the sign the Vizier had used. To this I must add the horrible practice of smothering, as soon as it is born, every male infant whose mother is sister or daughter to the Grand Seignior. I have now shewn how unmerited is that praise, which the Turks receive from the establishment of one law respecting our species; since those who will not shew mercy to their fellow-creatures, can never in reality do it to any animal.

"I was rejoiced to leave this land, over which Christianity has never shed her divine beams, for I am assured, my friends, that it is to that mild religion that we are so much indebted for the blessings we enjoy. How heartily did I rejoice when our sails were spread, and these hated shores receded from my view. I rejoiced, although my master had formed the daring scheme of traversing the wild and terrific regions of AFRICA.

CAPE TOWN.

" This place I understand to be one of great consequence, and we reached it without accident. I could not promise myself much pleasure in this visit, when I found that the inhabitants were most of them Dutch merchants. I had before met with some of these people in my travels, who are so bent on getting money, that they have no liberality even towards our race: which, in many places belonging to them, is made to carry loads, or drag carts to market, with many other servile employments. I think we are never more properly employed, than when guarding the property of our masters, or sharing their amusements, by being the companions of their walks and rides. We certainly were never formed for domestic drudgery, and I have often regretted, that custom should have authorized the office which poor Mopsey fills; but I am happy to find that this also is nearly abolished. But to return to my story: it may be supposed that, with such notions, I avoided forming any acquaintance with these traders. Had I not made this resolution, I might have been betrayed into some

horrible and disgusting scenes; for I have been assured that they often associate with wolves and tigers, beneath the covert of the night, to devour the filth and offal, which the people who supply the markets leave in the outskirts of the town.

"Nothing I had ever witnessed astonished me so much as that vast bird the ostrich, which I have often seen trotting, (for it has more the motion of a horse than a bird,) not only in the neighbouring fields, but in the town itself. It was as tall as a man on horseback; and its eggs, which contain more than a quart, are excellent; they have afforded me some delicious meals.

"I do not think that the people of Cape Town could be more agreeable to my master than to myself, for he soon formed the resolution of joining a party of travellers, whose motives for so dangerous a journey I did not hear explained. Before I quit this place, I must confess that the love of money had not hardened every heart in the colony; for I can repeat an anecdote so replete with courage and humanity, that I do not think it could have been exceeded even by one of us. A vessel had been wrecked, and the few who had been preserved from the waves,

were seen clinging to different parts of the wreck. The sea ran mountains high, so that no boat could venture to their assistance. A planter, that was a farmer of the colony, rode to the shore to view this melancholy scene. His heart was melted at the sight of the unhappy sailors: and, knowing the bold spirit of his horse, and his particular excellence as a swimmer, he determined to make a desperate effort for their deliverance. He alighted, and blew a little brandy into his horse's nostrils, when again seating himself firmly on the saddle, he instantly rushed into the midst of the breakers. At first both disappeared, but it was not long before they floated on the surface, and swam to the wreck; when taking with him two men, each of whom held by one of his boots, he brought them safe on shore. This perilous experiment he repeated seven times, and saved fourteen lives; but on his return the eighth time, his horse being much fatigued, and meeting with a formidable wave, he lost his balance, and was overwhelmed in an instant. The horse swam safe to land, but his gallant rider was seen no more.

"Well, my friends," continued Mungo, "and what honours do you think the great

men of the colony paid to the memory of their heroic countryman? Did they raise a statue to him? No, but they refused to his son the profits of a small place which his noble-hearted father had enjoyed.

"My master now experienced a most agreeable surprise, in the arrival of one of the good fathers, in whose peaceful abode we had so long sojourned in Switzerland. He felt for the uninstructed in every part of the world; and, anxious to promote the eternal happiness, and to remove the dark ignorance of the poor Hottentot, he was now going on a sacred mission to these rude, uncultivated beings. He therefore joined our party, and we began our journey of dangers and perils into the interior of Africa.

"We travelled in waggons, covered with sail-cloth, and drawn by oxen. No sooner had the sun set, than the howling wolf, and the yelping jackal, began their hideous cries, and appeared at no great distance from us. It was midnight before we reached a solitary habitation, and at the dawn we again pursued our journey through this fearful country.

"The baboons, from their dens in the sides of the mountains, laughed, screamed, and uttered such horrible noises as created

a sensation of surprise and horror. We soon after saw, basking in the sun on the sides of a river, a troop of four or five hundred of these large black baboons, who quitted the place with reluctance, grumbling and howling as they scrambled up the rock. The scenes which now presented themselves to my view, were so full of terror, so unlike every thing I had before experienced, that the courage and hardihood I had acquired in Switzerland appeared to be again entirely lost. I lay for whole days on the waggon, straining my eyes in search of the vast monsters which inhabit this country, or listening to the hideous cries as before described: whilst my more courageous master ventured to range beyond the waggons with his gun, in pursuit of the curious birds of the country, the white pelican and the red flamingo. The latter is beautiful, beyond my powers of description. The body is not larger than that of a goose: but its neck and legs are of such an extraordinary length, that when it stands erect it is upwards of six feet in height. The body is of a beautiful scarlet. They are generally found in flocks, and when seen at a distance, they

look like a regiment of soldiers. They were once tame and gentle, and easily approached; but having fallen beneath the gun of the fowler, they have all an aversion to man, and, when aware of their danger, they utter a noise not unlike the sound of a trumpet.

"Stupified as my senses were with daily danger, yet my curiosity and admiration were excited by the singular powers of the moroc. It is not much larger than a sparrow; but it has the peculiar faculty of discovering and pointing out to man the nests of wild beees. It is extremely fond of honey, and the morning and evening are its principal meal times. It cries, *cherr, cherr, cherr,* to excite the attention of the people, who then repair to the place from whence the sound proceeds. The bird all the time continually repeating its cry of cherr, cherr, flies on slowly towards the place: it then sits in silence on a neighbouring tree, whilst those who are thus enabled to plunder the nest, always leave a portion for the bird who has pointed it out to them.

"Thus, for a time, my days passed without pleasure; my nights without repose. Yet, at the house of the Dutch

planter, I must confess that the stranger and the friend are received with equal hospitality.

"Luxury had often been the companion of my travels, and if I had none of it in Switzerland, I had, at least, comfort and cleanliness; but of these the Dutch planter has no idea. His house affords a shelter for scorpions and spiders, his filthy floor swarms with insects, which allow no respite to the tired traveller; and his table is loaded with mutton swimming in fat. Yet even this degree of civilized society we were now to quit, and to enter those wild regions inhabited by the Hottentots alone.

"My master quitted the caravan of the traveller with whom we had before journeyed, and, with our worthy friend the priest, and another rambler, we began our new route. I must now go on foot, and, for my safety, trust to my own courage and my master's care.

"Some of you, my friends, may perhaps ask me what is a Hottentot? Why, he is a man, if a creature so filthy and so indolent deserves to be called one. In many parts they go entirely naked: and when they are clothed, it is merely

with the skin of a sheep or some other animal, in the state in which it is taken off: and their bodies are anointed with grease, which is said to be necessary in a country so warm, and so infested with insects. I only know, that to me both the sight and the smell were truly disgusting. I understand they are a quiet, honest people; but entirely destitute of that courage we so much admire in man. Courage is, indeed, that noble distinction of nature which man so proudly shares with us; and yet, perhaps, there was no period in my existence in which I had less reason to boast of this virtue, than at this part of my travels. But let the novelty of my situation plead my excuse. Sometimes meeting a troop of several hundred of those gigantic creatures, the elephant; sometimes encountering the fiery eye and bristling mane of the royal lion; then shrinking from the famished wolf, the hungry tiger, the untameable hyæna, and the disgusting baboon. The terror they excited was even light, compared with what I felt at troops of wild dogs, which hunt in packs, devouring man and beast—more rapacious, and more fierce than any other creature. Vexation, perhaps, was

blended with the sensation of terror, on reflecting that any of our boasted race should become so self-degraded. Let this reconcile us to our dependence on man, and to those hardships of a strict education, to which many of us are obliged to submit.

" We soon after reached a place where some workmen, whose benevolent designs were similar to those of our good father, had taken up their abode. Here, foregoing all the comforts of civilized society, they had established themselves in regions so dreadful, with no other view but the exalted one of teaching the poor Hottentot the useful arts of life; and above all, instructing him in those duties of religion, which I understand to be that distinction which raises man above our animal tribe. Our venerable companion was assured that if he went further, he would find the name of Christian, and the declaration of his sacred mission, the passport of his murder. Here, then, for the present, he was prevailed on to remain, to consult and determine how far, and with what hope of success, his holy intention might be put into practice.

" After taking leave of our respectable friends, my master presented me with a collar surrounded with spikes, to guard me, in some degree, from the attacks of any ferocious animal. We now began to penetrate into the interior of the country, where danger and hardships every day awaited us; and misery, such as I had never before endured, it was now my fate to encounter. Money became useless; and we were indebted for subsistence to the uncertain charity of the people, who sometimes allowed us to sleep in their huts, with the skin of some animal for a covering; but oftener were we thrust into a hovel with the goats, where the heat and stench were intolerable; and the butts from the horns of the rude animals laid me nearly dead at my master's feet.

" Sometimes we were obliged to eat the flesh of wolves, although we never failed to recoil at this loathsome food. Yet we often regaled on that of the tiger and the elephant, which we found very palatable. Ostrich eggs, as I said before, were great luxuries; and we also met with the land tortoise. One day, I recollect, when we had made a large fire, and dressed one of them, and were preparing to make a

delicious repast, being nearly in a starving state, our meal was disputed by an enormous serpent, several yards long, which approached close to the fire at which we were sitting. I need not say that we left him the undisputed master of the feast, making our retreat as soon as possible. That night we rested on a tree, if rest it might be called, my master kindly supporting me in his arms; but we never closed our eyes, from the hideous howlings of the animals, who on all sides surrounded us. We feared that a troop of elephants would advance, for, although less ferocious than any other creature, yet such is their mighty strength, that they will often, by twisting their enormous trunks round a tree, tear it from the roots, to feed on the branches.

" We now always endeavoured to reach some village, and herd with the goats, rather than pass such fearful nights; for when not spent in a tree, we were obliged to light up large fires to keep off the wild beasts, who would even then approach very near us.

" For the few comforts we experienced from the inhabitants, I found we were indebted to my worthy master, who,

patient under hardships, active and ingenious, gained the good offices of the people; making from wood, little articles of furniture for the women; spears for the men; and teaching them new methods of dressing their food; with many other little arts of life, which he was enabled to do by means of the interpreter whom he brought from Cape Town. But miserable indeed was the situation of a young gentleman who accompanied us; who, I believe, expected a table of delicacies to be spread in a desert: so much was he disgusted with the coarse fare now allotted to us. He had heard of the various animals and birds of Africa; and, I suppose, thought he could pursue his game with the same ease and safety as he could sport on his own manor. I discovered that a mere gentleman, that is, one who thinks his fortune privileges him to be indolent and ignorant, is the most useless of all creatures. It is in Africa that he finds his proper level. A blacksmith or a carpenter might rise to be a great man, whilst the gentleman would most likely lose his life, as a being useless to himself and to others.

"Our situation was soon much improved by an accidental meeting with a

celebrated traveller, who, having visited this country before, was prepared with every thing which might be useful in such hazardous expeditions. He had not only a proper number of native attendants, but carried with him utensils for cooking, and many other little comforts. He was also provided with proper presents for the people; and whilst the women decorated their sheep-skin aprons with beads and brass buttons, my master was pleased on observing that the men always chose hatchets and articles of iron. It was necessary to conceal these treasures as much as possible, lest a wish to possess the whole might tempt the uncultivated Hottentot to the destruction of the traveller. This gentleman was continually shooting or hunting, and as he was pleased to take a great regard for me, I always attended him in his excursions. I recollect his expressing great pleasure at the manner in which the natives destroyed an enormous tiger. When this creature approached, some began by throwing javelins at him; and another stood by with a spear in his right hand; on the left was a piece of elephant's hide. Undismayed by the rage of the ferocious animal, he thrust his

hand, wrapped up in the hide, into his throat, at the same time he pierced him with the spear he held in the other hand; and his companions then assisted to dispatch him.

" With this traveller, I was permitted the honour of assisting to hunt that enormous and unwieldy creature the hippopotamus, which, though partly living in the water, feeds on grass. Sometimes, when attacked, he will sink boats by biting vast pieces out of their sides: but I fancy he is very harmless when unmolested. As we approached the river, we heard them blowing and snorting, as loud as the torrent which roared among the rocks. I found this was not the time to attack them, but to wait the moment when they came out to feed, and to wound them on the knee-joint, to prevent their reaching the water before they are dispatched; which is not easily done, as their skin is in some parts two inches thick. Night had fallen before we prepared for the adventure. Every thing was still: we no longer heard the loud blowing of the animal, and we began to despair of success. The stillness had so long prevailed, that our Hottentot hunters had fallen asleep, and I confess

that I also followed their example; when in an instant, I was awakened by such a violent rushing of the water, that I supposed it was a sudden overflow of the river, and that I was about to be washed away by the torrent. I shook my wet coat, and hastened forwards; but what was my astonishment to find that this was occasioned by the hippopotamus dashing from the river, and passing so near that it was wonderful he had not killed me with his enormous foot. This animal escaped us, but the next night we were so fortunate as to kill one, which was upwards of ten feet in length, and seven in circumference. The Hottentots feasted on the flesh, but we Europeans were disgusted with it.

"Here also I saw subdued, by the strength and skill of man, the vast rhinoceros, whose skin resembling a coat of mail, is said to flatten bullets of lead. Its nose is armed with a solid horn, three feet in length, which renders it the terror even of the tiger; for such is its strength, that I have heard it will with this lift up a bull, as it would a foot-ball; but, except when provoked, it is neither fierce nor dangerous. A writer, whose veracity I can never doubt, asserts that one which

was brought from Bengal to England, cost a thousand pounds for his passage and food. He had every day, at three meals, seven pounds of rice mixed with three pounds of sugar; besides hay and green plants. When they are enraged, they throw up the earth with their horn, and furiously toss the dirt and stones to a vast distance. He is not easily killed; and it is generally by cutting the sinews of the heel, that he falls beneath the sword of the hunter. But this large creature has a formidable enemy in a small fly, which would in a short time subdue him, but for a stratagem which he practises. In the night, when the fly is at rest, the rhinoceros chooses a convenient place, and then rolling himself in the mud, clothes himself in a kind of case which defends him the following day; but when it cracks and falls off, he is again exposed to the fly: the itching and pain which follow, cause him to rub himself against the roughest trees he can find. He enjoys this so much, and grunts so loud, that his noise is heard at a great distance; this guides the hunter, who steals softly, and wounds him with a javelin in the belly, where the wound is mortal.

"But of all the monstrous creatures which this terrible country produces, none frightened me more than the buffalo, who is as savage as he is large and strong. The body and limbs are very thick and muscular; he is above eight feet long, and six in height. The head hangs down, and bears a most fierce and malevolent aspect. It is not unusual to see two hundred of them in a herd. They frequently conceal themselves among the trees, and there stand lurking till some unfortunate passenger comes by, when the animal at once rushes out and attacks the traveller, who has no chance of escape. Flight is of no avail; he is speedily overtaken by the furious beast, who, not content with throwing him down and killing him, stands over him even for a long time afterwards, trampling him with his hoofs, and crushing him with his knees; and not only mangles and tears the body to pieces with his horns and teeth, but likewise strips off the skin by licking it with his tongue.

"I must now speak of the elephant, who is often decoyed into the power of man, by means of females of his own species, who are trained for that purpose. I should have been sorry to witness the

subjection of this noble animal, who is said, in point of intellect, to resemble man more than any other. I should not, perhaps, go too far if I said, that in courage, forbearance, and generosity, they are often superior. I will, my friends, for your amusement, relate a few anecdotes of this most extraordinary creature, who, you no doubt know, is the largest of all that have breath on land. They generally march in troops; the oldest keeping first, the next in age bringing up the rear, and the young and the feeble are placed in the middle. When a family removes from place to place, the largest tusked males, who are at the head, are the first to pass a river. On arriving at the opposite bank, they try if the landing place be safe; if so, they give a signal with their trunks, on which another part of the old elephants swim over: the little ones then follow, holding one another by locking their trunks together; and the rest of the old ones then bring up the rear. Great skill, tenderness, and perseverance, are all requisite to tame and train an elephant; but they at length become extremely gentle and docile. They seldom escape to their old haunts; but the fol-

lowing anecdote of one having done so, is worth recording. It was a female, who broke loose from her keeper, and escaped to the woods. The man was supposed to have sold her; his wife and children were therefore taken for slaves, and he condemned to work on the roads. Twelve years afterwards, this man was sent into the country to assist in catching wild elephants. He fancied that he saw his long lost elephant in a group before him. He was determined to go up to it: nor could the strongest representations of the danger he ran, dissuade him from it. When he approached the creature, she knew him, giving him three salutes by waving her trunk in the air; then knelt down, and received him on her back. She brought with her, three young ones, which she had had in her absence. The keeper regained his character; and as a reward for his sufferings and intrepidity, had an annuity for his life. This elephant was afterwards the property of Governor Hastings, who now lives at Dalesford, in Oxfordshire,

"An elephant will do more work than six horses, but he requires much care and good food. He is fed with rice, and

will eat a hundred weight a day. Besides fresh water to cool him, his daily consumption of water has been calculated at forty-five gallons.

"And such," continued Mungo, "is the exalted opinion I entertain of this noble animal, that I have no doubt of the truth of the following anecdote. At a town in the East, such a dreadful distemper prevailed, that the entrance was filled with the dead and the dying. A prince was about to enter on his elephant, and refused to wait for the dead bodies to be removed; the animal, however, without appearing to slacken his pace, assisted them with his trunk; removed some, raised others on their feet, and stepped so cautiously that not one was hurt. An Asiatic prince was deaf to the cries of nature, while the heart of the beast relented; he, more worthy than his rider to elevate his front towards the heavens, heard and obeyed the gentle impulse.

"I cannot close this short account of the prodigious creatures I encountered in this country, without speaking of the royal lion, the most bold and majestic of all; whose countenance exhibits a picture of terrific grandeur, which no words can

describe. Deeply is this impressed on my remembrance; for one day, I was reposing quietly at the foot of a rock, a lion, springing over my insignificant body, seized a heifer which was lying a few yards from me; and although the legs of the animal dragged on the ground, he carried it off with the same ease as a cat would a rat. Such is his prodigious strength, that a single stroke of his paw is sufficient to break the back of a horse; and one sweep with his tail will throw a strong man to the ground. The roaring of the lion, when in quest of prey, is like the sound of distant thunder; and, re-echoed by the rocks and mountains, terrifies the whole race of animals, and puts them all to sudden flight.

"A Mr. Chenier furnished my master with a very curious anecdote. A hunter had proceeded far into a forest, when he met with two lion whelps. He took out his breakfast, and gave them a part. The lioness approached, unperceived by the man, so that he had not time, or perhaps wanted courage, to take up his gun. After looking some time at him, as he was feasting her young, she went away, and soon after returned, bearing a sheep,

which she laid at his feet. The huntsman, thus becoming one of the family, skinned the sheep, and, making a fire, roasted it. The lion, in his turn, came also; and, as if respecting the rights of hospitality, showed no tokens of ferocity. They conducted the huntsman safely out of the forest, who made a resolution never again to kill any of those animals, whose generosity he had so fully proved.

"This formidable creature, if taken young, is not only easily tamed, but will become as domestic as one of us. He is generous and grateful; attached to those who take care of him, and has been known to recognise them after an absence of many years; and even if their ferocity returns, it is never exerted against their benefactors. When he is enraged, or in want of food, he erects and shakes his mane, and beats his tail with violence against his back and sides. In this state it is certain death to those who happen to approach him; but when his mane and his tail are at rest, travellers may pass him with great safety. Of all brute animals, their favourite food is the horse; but the most delicious repast they can enjoy is a Hottentot. They have even been known

to single out one from a large company of Dutchmen: most likely because they are not encumbered with clothes: and attracted, perhaps, by the grease with which their bodies are smeared. But I have a striking instance with what persevering patience one of them waited to regale himself on one of those unfortunate fellows. He was driving his master's cattle into a pool of water, enclosed between two rocks, when hesaw a lion lying down in the midst of the pool. Terrified at the unexpected sight of such a beast, that fixed its eyes upon him, he instantly ran away. The lion broke through the herd, making directly after the Hottentot; who, on turning round, and seeing the monster had singled him out, breathless, and half dead with fear, scrambled up one of the aloe trees, in the trunk of which, fortunately, some steps had been cut to get at the bird's nests which the branches contained. At the same instant, the lion made a spring at him; but missing his aim, fell upon the ground. In surly silence he walked round the tree, casting at times a dreadful look towards the poor Hottentot, who had crept behind the nests. It may be proper to explain, that

these nests belong to small birds; who, forming a society, construct their nests in one clump, and under one cover. One of these clumps of nests will extend to a space of ten yards, and contain several hundred inhabitants. It was under the cover of one of these, that the Hottentot screened himself from the sight of the lion. Having remained silent and motionless for some time, he ventured to peep over the side of the nest, hoping that the lion had taken his departure; when, to his great terror and astonishment, his eyes met those of the animal, which seemed to flash fire at him. In short, the lion laid himself down at the foot of the tree, and did not move for four-and-twenty hours. At the end of that time, becoming parched with thirst, he went to a spring at some distance, to drink. The Hottentot now ventured to descend, and scampered off home (which was not more than a mile distant) as fast as he could, where he arrived in safety. The perseverance of the lion was such, that he returned to the tree, and finding him gone, hunted him by the scent to within three hundred yards of the house. For this interesting anecdote, as well as for much other pleasing information, I am indebted to Mr. Bingley;

but on such subjects I shall no longer dwell, since those, who have understanding enough to listen to my adventures, are equally capable of perusing the works of this gentleman; and I shall no further anticipate the pleasure they will derive from the perusal of his Animal Biography.

"I have now only to relate two adventures, which had nearly terminated my existence, and prevented me the honour which I now enjoy—that of describing my travels to my friends. With the few of of our species, whom I met in the house of the planter, or the hut of the Hottentot, I avoided all intercourse; so much disgust did I feel at their rude and filthy manners. Still, in the weariness of solitude, one is too often tempted to associate with low company; and I was, at length, induced to visit at a house, where, I confess, I was hospitably invited to partake of a dinner of sheep's entrails, I declined this; but as we were sitting in the open air, and several domestic animals near us, I heard at some distance, a singular kind of noise, but I could see nothing; yet, dreadful was the fear expressed by every living creature around me. A squirrel, who was confined by a long chain, fell from his perch in convulsions; whilst the other animals, as if wanting the power to

move, awaited the unseen enemy, with hair, bristles, and feathers erect. I, with that courage which could flow from ignorance alone, rushed onwards: but on approaching a plat of tall reeds, I observed, lying among them, that most dreadful of all reptiles, the rattle-snake. He lay without motion; his glaring eyes were fixed on me; his monstrous jaws, extended, seemed the horrible den for my destruction. I tried to retreat—the power to move was denied me. I tried to express my situation by my cries: but my voice had lost its utterance. I became dreadfully convulsed, and without the power of moving my eyes from those of the monster. At the very moment I was expiring, a Hottentot drew near with a forked stick; with this, he fixed the head of the snake to the ground; and giving him a piece of leather to bite, drew out his poisonous fangs. In the mean time, my good master had heard of the adventure, and taking me in his arms, endeavoured to sooth me. My agitation, after some time, subsided; and I found the creature had been cut in pieces and cooked, as a feast for the people. Even my master partook of it, and declared it to be as white and delicate as veal.

I find many writers have disputed about this creature, some attributing to it the power of fascinating with its eyes, so that nothing could escape from it. Nay, animals have been seen to rush into its extended jaws. Happy should I be, could I satisfy Natural Philosophers on this subject. I can myself have little doubt that all this is occasioned by terror, and even the circumstance of the creature rushing into its throat, must proceed from loosing all power of knowing where destruction lies.

" From this period, I avoided the covert of the woods and rushy fens; but I was one day basking on an open plain, when I saw a bird of an immense size, which I afterwards understood was of the vulture or eagle kind. It sailed over my head, and the motion was so sublime, that I surveyed it with delight, unmixed with fear; for I had seen the ostrich, the largest of the feathered race, very quietly let boys mount his back, and trot away like an English poney. The creature now hovering over me was of a more rapacious tribe. He was also a devourer of serpents: his strength, therefore, must have been prodigious. Unhappily, none of the favourite reptiles were in sight, and, descending in an instant, he fixed his horrid talons in me, and bore me away. The height to

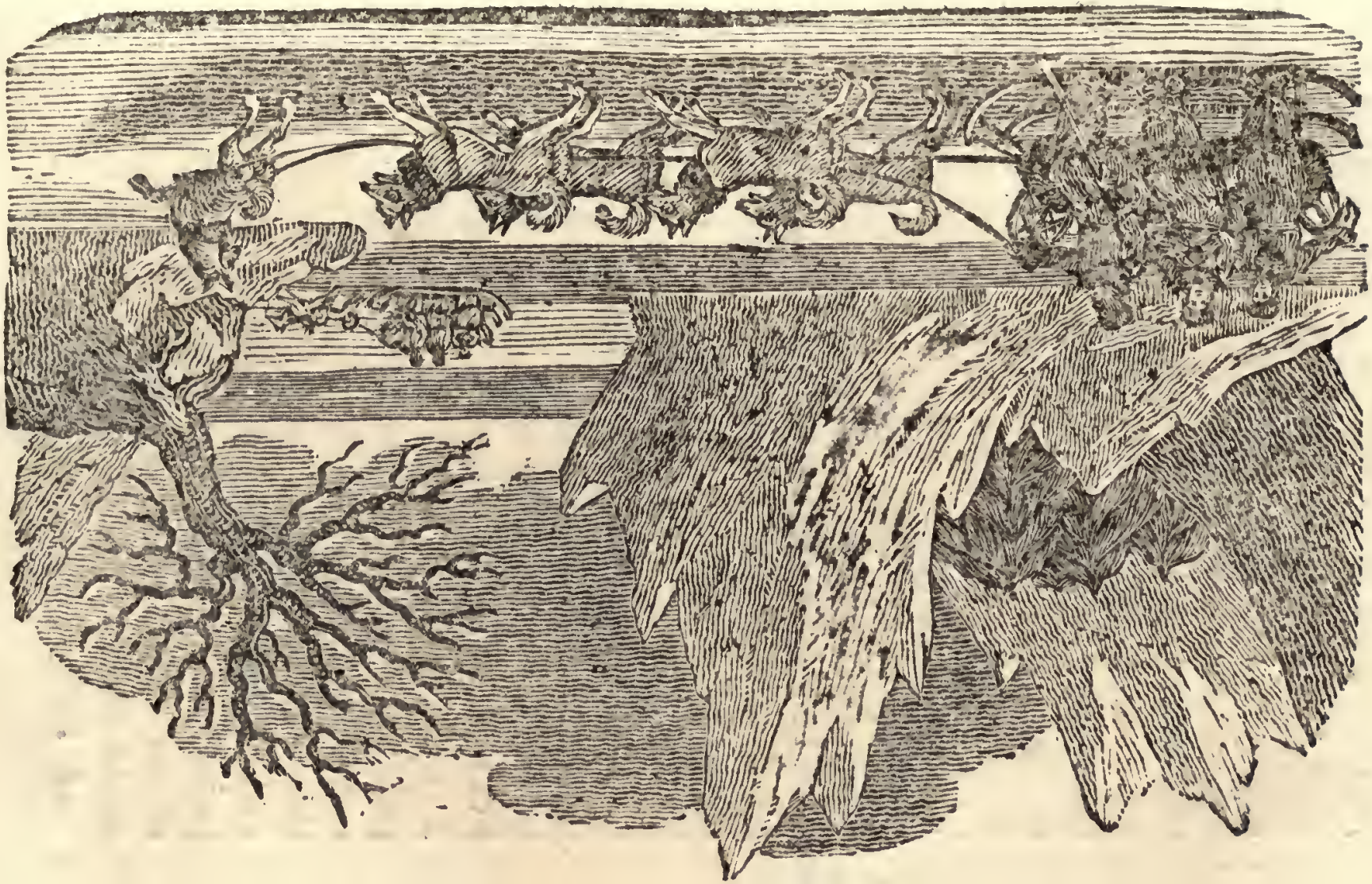
which he soared, took from me all power of making myself heard, and I became senseless; but from this I was awakened by a violent explosion, which proceeded from the gun of our fellow-traveller, who took this desperate method of relieving me, hoping my enemy might fall, and that I should thereby escape. So it proved; but I was so much bruised by the fall, and so dreadfully hurt by the claws which pierced my sides, that little hope was entertained of my recovery. At the request of a humane female Hottentot, my master gave me to her care. She rubbed my body over with ointment, dosed me with dried tiger's blood, and laid me on a sheep-skin bed. To the skill and tenderness of my Hottentot nurse, I owed my recovery; and my master gave her my collar, which she (quite delighted with the present) converted into an ornament for her person.

"And thus," continued Mungo, "terminated my adventures in Africa; a country teeming with such prodigious créatures, that one must feel the most awful admiration, in considering the greatness of that Power which could produce them.

"Home, and all its comforts, were once more before me, and with such prospects in view, I heeded not the dangers

and pains of a long sea-voyage; but its tediousness was sweetened by a circumstance very unexpected. My master met with a gentleman on board, whose disposition and manners were similar to his own. He too had been a traveller, and in still wilder regions than those we had crossed. He also was attended by a favourite dog, of the Newfoundland kind: and my master declared that Rear-Admiral Neptune, as he was called, was the finest creature he had ever seen. He was indeed a noble animal, and under this large and grand form, were a heart and manners gentle as a lady's spaniel; and yet, such was his courage and strength, that he would plunge into the sea, and attack the mighty whale in her native deep. Before I knew him, I did not suppose that usefulness and dignity could be so united; for he assured me, that in his youth, and in his own country, he had often been employed in drawing vast weights of timber, and generally without the attendance of his master. But he was far better pleased to accompany him in his voyages, and contend with the monsters of the deep.

"With his present master he had been to Kamtschatka, a country where the inhabitants employ large dogs to draw carriages, called sledges, over the snow



and ice; for it is a very cold country. In the few months of summer, they are allowed to have their liberty, and range where they like; but they have little to subsist on, excepting the fish which is thrown on shore, and which, indeed, is the principal food of the people themselves. These animals, I fear, are not much attached to their masters, nor to the employment to which, through a long winter, they are destined, as they howl most piteously, when first fastened to the sledges.

"It might afford you some amusement to describe the singular mode of life of those who inhabit the northern regions; but my master has hinted some intention of visiting them, and as age has not yet disabled me from attending him I may once more, in this spot, have the happiness of relating future adventures. Yet, I will impart some of the information gained from my friend Neptune. He assured me, that in the kingdom of China, there are dog-butchers, and shambles for selling the flesh. In Canton, one of the principal cities of that country, there is a street solely for that purpose: and, what adds another proof of the discernment of our race, no sooner does one of these

butchers appear, than every dog is in pursuit of him, as of their common enemy. I understand also, that, along the coast of Guinea, our flesh is so much esteemed, that a negro would give a cow for one of us; and they have their dog-feasts, the same as the English have theirs of venison.

" But as this was not very pleasing information for one who had further travels in view, I will proceed to the very interesting account he gave me, of a tribe of our kind, which, I think, has been hitherto unknown to us. They have their settlement in a part of the West Indies. belonging to the Spaniards, and appear to resemble our blood-hounds of former times. They are generally sent out in pursuit of slaves, who have fled to the woods from their inhuman masters. They never kill the object they pursue, unless resisted, but bark at him till he stops; and then, couching near him, terrify him with a ferocious growling, till the master comes up. They are the size of a large hound, with ears erect, and cropped at the point; their skin very hard, their whole form of prodigious strength, and their activity, no being on earth can elude

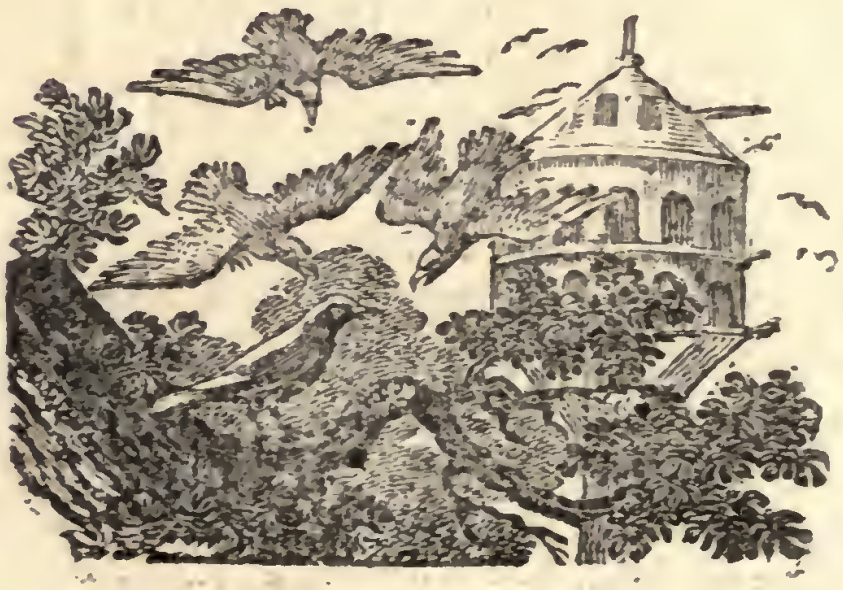
All this is the effect of education; for, previously to being trained, they will fasten on the throat of their object, and never quit their hold till cut in two. They are dependant on their masters, who, like my old Swiss companions, are called chasseurs; and their education is most strict, as they are at first beaten unmercifully, and they are never unchained, or unmuzzled, but for attack. The chasseur and his dogs are inseparable; and the former is, also, a singular race. They are a hardy, robust, desperate set of men; but honest and faithful, and so temperate that a few ounces of salt, and the vegetables of the woods, will support them for months; and they drink nothing stronger than water. My friend Neptune was one of a party, who went to fetch some of these dogs from one of the West India islands to another, and his account of the voyage was interesting. In a violent storm some of the untrained dogs got loose, and fastened on the cattle which were on board. The bellowing of these poor animals, the howling of the dogs, and the shrieks of the Spaniards, united with the darkness of the night, to render the scene most horrible; and such was the terror their ap-

pearance excited, when they landed, that, as they passed through the town, the streets were cleared, every door was barred, and the people surveyed them, fearfully, from their windows.

"I have little further to add, my good neighbours," replied Mungo, "for this voyage was my last; and it was rendered agreeable by the pleasant manners and good sense of my friend Neptune, who, as a proof of his confidence, consigned his son to my care, during his excursion to the continent. This promising puppy is now under my protection, and I should have introduced him to the present company, had I not resolved that it should consist of home-bred dogs alone. My experience has been great, and my hardships many; but they have had their use; for they have taught me, that he, who would travel with advantage to himself and to others, must not pride himself on illustrious birth and accomplishments, for they will avail him but little beyond the circle of his own friends. But he must be temperate in his pleasures, courageous in moments of danger, and benevolent and active in his services to others.

" In the course of my long wanderings, I have witnessed the polished manners of France and Italy, the bold freedom of the Swiss, the haughty independence of the Spaniard, the bigotry of the Turk, and the savage grandeur of Africa; yet, after all, my friends, be assured that these highly favoured countries in which we live, are the happiest abodes for dogs, as well as men!"

The company then departed, with many compliments; expressing themselves both instructed and entertained by the adventures of "*Mungo, the Little Traveller.*"



THE GIANT'S CAUSEWAY.

THE SEVEN WONDERS

OF THE

WORLD.

No. 1.

THE GIANT'S CAUSEWAY.

THE GIANT'S CAUSEWAY, situated on the sea coast in the North of Ireland, and in the northern part of the county of Antrim, has been generally described as a mole or quay, which stretches from the foot of a steep headland, some hundred feet into the sea. This great mass of rock is composed of straight pillars, which stand so that scarcely any thing but the point of a knife, could be introduced between them, touching each other, and appearing not unlike a solid honey-comb. The pillars are irregular and of various kinds, of from four to eight sides, but the six-sided columns are as numerous as all

the others together. On a close view, each pillar is found to be formed of several pieces, joined together with the greatest neatness—the end of one which is round, meets with, and fits into, the hollow socket of the next, so that they are completely locked together, and can seldom be separated without breaking some of their parts.

Such is the appearance of this extraordinary pile, which has been observed and described with wonder by every one who has seen it. But it is not here that our admiration should cease; in whatever way nature produced that beautiful and curious form of the pillars in the Giant's Causeway, the cause, far from being confined to that spot alone, appears to have extended through a large tract of country in every direction, insomuch that many of the common quarries bear the marks more or less strong of the same kind of building.

The principal objects of this whole coast, are the two great headlands of Bengore and Fairhead, which stand at the distance of eight miles from each other. These capes are composed of different rows of pillars, and a great number of

layers, or beds placed one above the other, which, from the nature of the coast, are very easily seen, and form a pile of natural building, in which all the neat regularity of art is united to the wild grandeur of nature.

The most perfect of the smaller capes, which lie between Fairhead and Bengore, is called Pleaskin; the top is covered with a thin greasy sod, and at the depth of about twelve feet, the rock begins to have a column-shaped appearance, forming a row of massy pillars of a hard black kind of stone like marble, which has been called Basalt. They stand straight, having the appearance of a grand gallery, or colonnade, upwards of sixty feet in height. This colonnade is supported on a solid mass of coarse black uneven rock, and under it stands a second row of pillars, between 40 and 50 feet in height, smaller and more regular in their shape than those of the upper story.

These two admirable natural colonnades, together with the mass of uneven rock lying between them, form a straight height of 170 feet, from the foot of which the headland, covered over with rock and grass, slopes down to the sea, for the

space of 200 feet more, making in all, a mass of nearly 400 feet in height, which, for beauty and size, cannot be equalled by any thing of the kind at present known.—Though there are but two complete rows of pillars appearing in any of the headlands, yet it is very likely that there may be many more in succession, at various depths under ground, since these columnar marks may be traced in the sea to a great depth; and it is worth remarking, that they appear more perfect, in proportion as they lie deeper. The Giant's Causeway itself, which is situated at the base of one of these headlands, on the level of the beach, is one of those beds, that has been accidentally stripped, and wasted by length of time and storms. It, therefore, consists of a singular collection of many hundred thousand pillars, extending nearly two hundred yards; the breadth of the Causeway, which runs in a slope to the sea, in one continued range, is about thirty feet, the highest part is the narrowest, but the tops of the columns for about one hundred yards, being nearly of an equal height, they form a fine smooth level, that may be easily walked on, extending to the water's edge. At the

distance of eight miles from thence, (as was before mentioned,) the headland called Fairhead rises above four hundred feet from the level of the sea: It, also, is a mass of pillar-shaped stones, the forms of which are extremely large, many of them being nearly 150 feet in height, and at the foot of these gigantic columns, lies a wild waste of natural ruins, of an enormous size, which, in the course of time, have been tumbled down from their foundations by storms.

This great headland has a very wild and savage appearance; at the foot of it the ocean rages with uncommon fury; scarcely a single green spot is to be seen, whilst the beautiful capes of Bengore, from their cheerful variety of colour, present a striking contrast to its grey and barren appearance.

About half way from the two headlands above mentioned, lies a little rock connected with the main land by a very extraordinary flying bridge, a short account of which, will not be without interest. At a particular season of the year, the salmon fish come along the coast, in search of the different rivers in which they annually cast their spawn, and as,

in this expectation, they generally swim close to the shore, the fishermen take care to throw their nets in such places, as may be most convenient for stopping them in their course.

It so happens that Carrick-a-rede is the only place on this steep coast, which is suited for the purpose, but how to get at the rock is the question, a gap or chasm full sixty feet in breadth, and of a depth frightful to look at, separates it from the land near it; the sea breaks below, with a constant roar over the rocks; the island itself cannot be approached on any side, except one spot, but the wildness of the coast, and the violence of the sea, make it very difficult to land even there.

In this perplexity, there is really no resource except in attempting to throw a bridge of ropes from the main land to the island, which, accordingly, the fishermen accomplish every year in a very singular manner:—Two strong cables are stretched across the gulf by an expert climber, and tied firmly to iron rings, fastened into the rock on both sides—between these ropes, a number of boards, about a foot in breadth, are laid in succession, supported at distances by cross cords, and

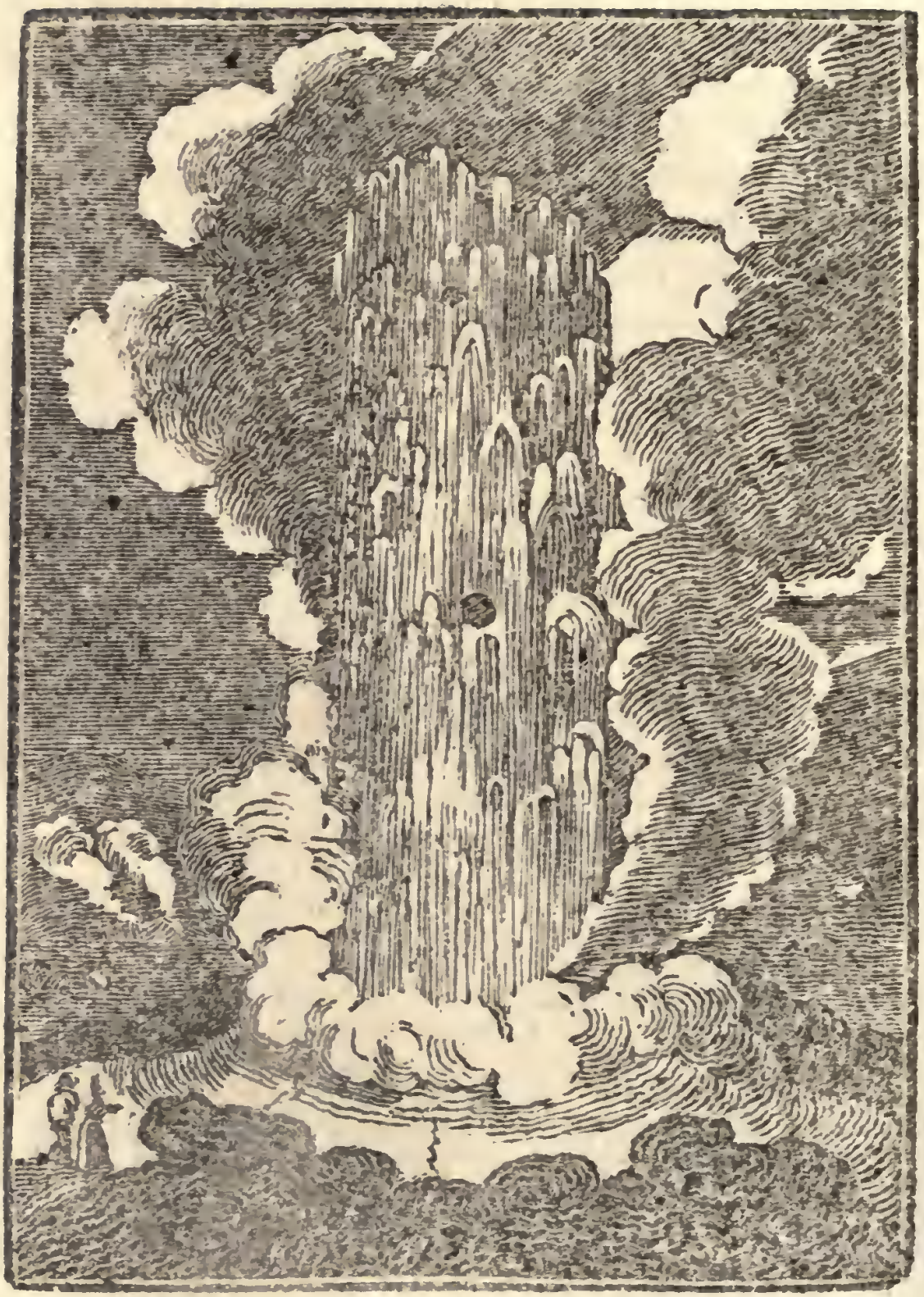
thus the pathway is formed, which, though broad enough to bear a man's foot with tolerable convenience, by no means hides from view the pointed rocks and raging sea beneath ; while the swinging of the bridge itself, and of the hand ropes, which no stretching can, in so great a length, make sufficiently tight, suggests every moment the fatal effects of a fall. The description of this will call to mind the cane bridges, which the natives of South America throw across the chasms so frequently met with in that mountainous country.

See the description of the Andes.

It has been mentioned that this Causeway, or bed of columnar rock, has been traced in the sea to a great depth and distance from the shore ; and the same appearance which has been discovered at Staffa, on the opposite coast of Scotland, would lead us to believe, that through the whole distance under the sea, which is about 80 miles, the same natural formation is continued. The island of Staffa is about one mile and a half round, and five distant from the main land of Scotland, and appears rising above the sea, as if entirely supported by rows of

natural pillars, most of which are fifty feet high. On the south side, over against the coast of Ireland, where the Giant's Causeway is situated, lies the cave of Fingal, more regular in its form than the other, though on a smaller scale, the magnificence of which proves how far nature's building can surpass that of art; the great entrance, which is 117 feet in height, is formed by a row of pillars on each side, the distance between them growing narrower as they approach the mouth of the cave, not unlike the entrance of our largest churches; its length, from the commencement of these pillars is 371 feet, and the roof, which is formed by the bottoms of columns, from which the lower parts have been broken off, is supported by others that have been polished by the dashing of the sea, so as to look like marble.—The sea flows in to the farthest extremity, so that it can be arrived at only in a boat, or else by climbing over the broken columns which run along the sides and rise above the water mark. Both at this cave, and in the Giant's Causeway, the pillars bearthe same jointed appearance, the same variety of form, in which, that of six sides is the

most common, and are composed of the same kind of grey or black stone, all of which lead us to conclude that both were produced at the same period of time by some great convulsion of nature, which swept away every one that might have witnessed its effects.



THE GREAT GEYSER.

No. 2.

THE GEYSERS,

OR

BOILING SPRINGS OF ICELAND.

ICELAND is an island nearly equal in extent to England, Scotland, and Ireland, situated in the northern part of the Atlantic, or great Western Ocean. From one end to the other, it presents to the view, barren mountains, whose tops are always covered with snow—small fields of stunted grass, which give a scanty provision for cattle, or Burning Mountains that have spread the marks of devastation over the whole country. Amongst the strange and wonderful appearances which are quite familiar to the natives, are the Geysers or Boiling Springs, which, at certain times, shoot out to an amazing height, a thick pillar of boiling water and steam, and are, by all travellers, considered as among the most wonderful of

nature's works. These springs remain constantly boiling hot, whether from a natural fire in the bowels of the earth, or from some other cause, is not known.

The road to the principal springs is extremely difficult, passing through a country covered with rents or cracks produced by earthquakes, and hills formed of the lava, or stuff thrown out of the burning mountain of Hecla in a melted state, which afterwards hardens as it cools. After passing close to several boiling springs, near which the natives frequently build their houses, for the convenience of cooking their food, and washing clothes, "we arrived," says the traveller, whose account we select, "at the mountain, from which the Geysers spring. The lower part of it is composed of a number of hillocks, and on the top of each was a circular opening, which shoots out spouts of water from one to four feet in height; in others, the water rose no higher than the brim of the basin in each, or else was gently flowing over the sides. I did not long remain in this spot, but directed my steps to the loftiest column of steam which alone, by way of distinction, is called the *Geyser*; a great round hill was

raised a considerable height above those that surround most of the other springs. On reaching the top of this hill, I looked into the basin, which gradually shelved down to a pipe in the centre, from which the water issued out, and it looked very like a saucer of fifty-one feet round, with a round hole eighteen feet wide in the middle. It was not possible to enter the basin, for it was filled nearly to the edge with clear water, in which there was a slight bubbling, and a larger body of steam, which increased both in quantity and thickness as often as the boiling became more violent; shortly after, I heard a hollow noise, like the distant firing of cannon, and at the same time felt a slight shaking of the earth under my feet; immediately after which, the boiling of the water increased, together with the steam, and the whole was violently agitated ;—at first, the water only rolled, without much noise, over the edge of the basin, but this was followed by a jet or spouting forth of water, which rose about twelve feet, and a loud roaring noise ; this jet fell as soon as it had reached its greatest height; then the water flowed over the edge still more than before, and in less than half a

minute, a second jet was thrown, like the former. Another overflowing of the water succeeded, after which it immediately sunk down about three fourths of the way into the basin. This was the only discharge that evening; however, we continued anxiously looking towards it, having heard that the eruptions are most frequent, when the air is dry and the wind northerly, which was then the case. On the following morning, I was informed of an approaching eruption by noises and shocks of the ground, the former of which might be compared to the distant firing from a fleet of ships, when the cannon are discharged, at one time singly, at another, by two or three at the same moment. I was standing at this time on the edge, but was obliged to retire from the rising of the water; a few seconds after the first jet had subsided, a second and a third succeeded, the last rising in a body not less than 90 feet, or thirty yards in height; its lower part was nearly as wide as the basin itself, which is seventeen yards across. The bottom was a prodigious body of white foam, but high up, amidst the clouds of steam that had burst from the pipe, the water could be

seen mounting in a thick column, which broke into a great many streams of vapour, some of which were shot to a great height in the air, while others were thrown out from the side in a slanting direction. After the fourth jet, and scarcely at the interval of two minutes from the first, the water sunk very quickly in the basin, with a rushing noise, and nothing was to be seen but the column of steam, which had been constantly increasing, and now rose to a great height, till its upper part gradually melted into the surrounding air. I could now walk in the basin to the edge of the pipe, down which the water had sunk ten feet, but it still boiled furiously, and with great noise. This pipe was nearly six yards over, and situated, as is before mentioned, in the middle of a basin seventeen yards wide. It was full twenty minutes from the sinking of the water from the basin, before I could sit down on it, or touch it with my hands, without burning myself. The next discharge of the Geyser, which took place at half-past nine, was a very magnificent one, and was preceded by more numerous shocks of the ground, and louder noises; the whole height to which the greatest jet of water rose, could

not be less than one hundred feet. The thickness of the stream of water shot up, is probably not more than eighteen or twenty feet in general, but as it now happened, all the water nearly to the edge of the basin was at once heaved up—all, however, is not spouted to an equal height; the middle part rises the highest, but having gained some elevation, the spray or foam divides, and throws out little spouts on every side, that fall some way over the edge of the basin. I found the water in the pipe to be constantly as hot as boiling water, and was always accustomed, when in the neighbourhood of these springs, to have my provisions cooked in them.

My attention was next directed to another pipe of considerable size, in which I had hitherto observed nothing extraordinary, though its discharges were said to be more violent than those of the Geyser: At half-past nine, I was roused by a loud and rushing noise, immediately at my feet, like that arising from a great waterfall. On putting aside the canvas of my tent, to observe what could have occasioned it, I saw within a hundred yards, a column of water rising quite

straight into the air, from the place just mentioned, to a great height; as this lasted for an hour and a half, I was able, after recovering from the astonishment into which I was thrown by its magnificent appearance, to find out, that it was 150 feet high, and 17 feet across in its widest part. The body of water rose to the very top as regular in width and shape as where it first issued from the pipe, a few feet only of the upper part being broken into spray; the wind also, at times, carried the steam, that accompanied the eruption to one side of the pillar of water, which thus shewed the bottom partly surrounded by foam, but from thence, to the upper part, nothing broke the regularly straight upward line of the water spout, and the sun shining upon it, made it, in some points of view, of a dazzling brightness. Stones of the largest size, and even pieces of rock, which we threw into the opening, were instantly sent back by the force of the water, and though the rock was so hard as to require several blows from a large hammer, when I wished to break it, they were, nevertheless, shivered into small bits, and carried up to the height of, and frequently

higher than the top of the spout; during the next hour, it gradually diminished in strength, until at length it ceased to play, and the water sunk into the pipe, to the depth of about 20 feet.

We shall close this description with one remark, concerning the people inhabiting Iceland, which, though it has nothing to do with our account of the Boiling Springs, may be strongly recommended to the attention of those who live in more favoured countries. Amongst many good qualities which Icelanders in general possess, contentment with their situation is the most remarkable; separated by the distance and poverty of their native land from any trade with those countries where plenty abounds, they collect the moss, which they use in place of flour, and eat their dried, uncooked fish, with gratitude for those supplies which Providence is pleased to grant them. There is scarcely a spot in this great island, but bears the marks of volcanic eruptions, (and though it is nearly as large as England, Ireland, and Scotland, together, yet it contains but 48,000 people—not so many as are in several of our small sized towns, still its inhabitants feel as strong a love to their

native land, as those of any other country: —earthquakes, disease and famine cannot drive them from home, and the few whom trade has called into Denmark, to which Iceland belongs, have expressed the greatest impatience to return. We learn, therefore, from this, that happiness is within the reach of every person, and that a contented mind is one of the greatest blessings in any country.

No. 3.

THE GREAT WALL OF CHINA.

China is situated in the eastern part of Asia, and extends for a great distance along the shores of the Pacific Ocean; its length from east to west is about 5000 miles, and from north to south 2000 miles; the number of people it contains has been estimated at the amazing number of three hundred and thirty three millions of souls: so that its extent is about ten times greater than that of England, Ireland, and Scotland; and its population twenty times greater. Millions of these inhabitants pass their lives in boats, on the rivers, lakes, and canals, which abound in China. It would be difficult, however, to find provisions for a population so immense, if the Chinese did not pay great attention to tilling the land. Once every year, the Emperor ploughs a spot of ground with his own hands, and

the encouragement, which his example gives to industry, is seen over the whole country. Even on the sides of the steepest mountains, you may frequently behold a number of terraces, and raised level patches of land, rising one above another, each of which is supported by mounds of stone. By this management, it is not uncommon to see the face of a mountain completely cultivated to the top; upon this, all kinds of vegetables and grain are produced. A cistern or well is sunk in the top, from whence the rain water collected in it, is conveyed to the different terraces. In spots too rugged or barren, various kinds of the fir or deal tree are cultivated with success. Should the labourer find, however, between the rocks, a patch ever so small on which he can use his spade, he is not discouraged from cultivating it immediately, by the scanty crop it is likely to yield, and the consequence and reward of his labour, are, that he is enabled to support a family from a spot of land, which an idle, negligent man would consider altogether unprofitable.

"On a high mountain," says a traveller,

who has lately been in China, "I discovered several distinct patches of cultivated ground, on such a steep slope as would have appeared to me impossible to be come at, if I had not seen the owner employed on one of these dreadful precipices. The peasant had a rope fixed about his middle, which was secured at the other end, on the top of the mountain, and by this means, he was able to let himself down, to any part of the precipice, where a few yards of ground gave him encouragement to plant his vegetables or his corn; and thus he had adorned the mountain with a variety of cultivated spots. Near the bottom, he had erected a wooden hut, surrounded with a small piece of ground, planted with cabbages, where he supported, by this industry, a wife and several children.

It has been seen how plenty in China, as well as in every other country, arises from industry. The character of the Chinese is such as might be expected among people possessing this good quality—It is mild, and affable, and kind, and seldom interrupted by passion; this has been also ascribed to their never taking intoxicating

liquors, their usual drink being tea, which is well known to be the produce of the country. The good education, however, which they receive when young, may be considered as another principal cause of it; in every village, town, and city, there are public schools, where children are taught to be content with their situation, religious towards God, obedient to their parents, kind and affectionate to their neighbours, and merciful to the poor and unfortunate. At the age of twenty, after having acquired all that is taught in these schools, they receive, for the first time, permission to wear a cap, as a token of having arrived at manhood. The manner in which it is given to them, deserves to be mentioned. At the proper time, the master, having placed the cap on their heads, addresses them in the following manner: "Consider that you now receive the dress of those who have arrived at manhood, and that you cease to be children—lay aside, therefore, all childish thoughts and desires, assume a grave and serious behaviour, apply with resolution to the study of virtue and wisdom, and endeavour to merit a long and happy life."

The Chinese have two great festivals or holidays in the year, one of them is on the commencement of the year, the other is called the feast of Lanterns. During the celebration of the first, all business whether public or private, is suspended: the courts of justice are shut, no letters are carried by the post, and all the women and children of each family assemble to a grand feast: this is called taking leave of the old year. The feast of Lanterns is every where kept throughout the whole empire, and all China is illuminated on the same day and at the same hour. Every city and village, the shores of the sea and the banks of the rivers are hung with lanterns of various shapes and sizes. These lanterns are very large, either painted or neatly gilt and covered with transparent silk, on which are painted flowers, animals, and various other figures. Several lamps, and a great number of wax candles are put in each, and to the corners are fixed streamers of silk of different colours, and a curious piece of covered work is placed on the top.

The Chinese dress consist of a long garment, which reaches to the ground; the sleeves are wide at the shoulder, and

grow narrower as they approach the wrists; they wear a large girdle of silk round the waist, from which hangs a sheath with a kind of knife, and two small sticks, which they use at their meals; the shirt and drawers are thin or warm according to the seasons, and in winter the use of fires is general—they shave the head, leaving only a small portion of hair on the top, which is generally suffered to grow very long. In summer they wear a funnel-shaped cap, (the wide part of which of course is next the head) lined with silk, and covered with cane neatly wrought; to the top they fix a large tuft of red hair, which, falling down, covers it to the brim.

The rivers and lakes in China abound in fish, and the modes of catching them are various. One of the most curious is by birds, which are trained in the same manner as dogs are taught to follow game. This method of fishing is practised in boats, numbers of which may be seen on the water at sun rising, with the birds perched on their prows, or foremost part. The men, having made several turns with their boats, beat the water with one of the oars, which is the signal for the birds

to disperse themselves, plunge into the river, and seize by the middle what fish they can; they then rise to the surface, and return with their prey each to their own boats. The fisherman receives the fish from the birds, which are prevented from swallowing them by a ring placed on the gullet for the purpose; when they have done fishing, the ring is taken off, and they are then suffered to feed. If the fish taken happens to be too large for the strength of the bird, another will come to its assistance; one takes it by the head, the other by the tail, and in this manner they carry it to their master.

The manner of catching water-fowl is as curious. When the fowler spies his game, he wades into the water with only his head above the surface, which is covered with a pot, full of holes to let in air and light. This pot is stuck with feathers to deceive the birds, so that, when he approaches them, they are not alarmed, but suffer him to drag them by the legs under the water, until they are drowned, and the rest of the fowls are not disturbed by it, but remain about the place, till perhaps the greater part of them is taken.

It is highly probable, that the Chinese had early arrived at that state of civilization which is observed amongst them at present. That they have remained precisely at the same degree for so many hundred years, whilst other nations, whose improvement was later, have since far surpassed them, may be ascribed to their foolish dislike to strangers and their customs, and the high opinion they have of themselves, that they are better than the rest of mankind. China has, amongst the natives, a name which signifies the center of the earth, other countries being considered as mere outskirts to their own; and they have an opinion which is handed down from father to son, and firmly believed, that two orders of human beings were created to people the world; first the Chinese, and afterwards the men and women of other countries. Their laws forbid a Chinese to quit his country for the purpose of settling in another, and strangers who visit China for the purposes of trade, meet with so many difficulties, that few have encouragement to bring amongst them the arts and manufactures of Europe. We have found, however, much to be admired and imitated amongst this people; and the following

description of the great wall of China, the most wonderful production of human labour, which has nothing equal to it in the whole world, not even in the pyramids of Egypt, will sufficiently prove that their power must have been immense, even before the coming of our Saviour; and that the government must have been both wise and vigorous, which could preserve them for so many ages from distant enemies and from wars amongst themselves.

This astonishing work of human labour, may be considered as a wall of brick 25 feet high, with battlements like a castle. It is wider at bottom than at top, where a road has been constructed of cut stones, broad enough for six horsemen to ride abreast. At the distance of every hundred yards, a tower, 40 feet square, forms part of the line of wall, and under this tower, the road is continued, by means of arches. These towers rise considerably higher than the wall, and served as barracks for the soldiers appointed to defend the frontier. In the amazing distance to which this wall runs, there are at least twenty-six thousand towers, and supposing fifty men were placed in each, and it is as small a number as can be conceived sufficient to guard

300 feet of fortification, the whole would have required a force of one million three hundred thousand men. This is the appearance of the wall, extending east and west as far as the eye can reach. The body of the wall is an immense mound of earth, retained on each side by a facing of masonry and bricks, which rises above the terrace or platform at the top, to form a parapet like the battlements of a castle. The foundation consists of large blocks of stone laid in mortar, of which two courses stand above the ground; from these the brick work commences, the height of the whole being from 20 to 30 feet. This great rampart begins at the sea to the east of China, and is carried along the range of hills which closes the country on that side; from thence, it meets with no interruption till it reaches the ridge of high mountains in the neighbourhood of the city of Suen, to which it is closely united; it is afterwards interrupted by the great river of Hoan-ho, but across others of less breadth, arches are thrown on which it is built. In the whole course from east to west, it climbs the highest mountains, descends the deepest vallies, crosses the most rapid rivers, is doubled and trebled

in many parts, to take in important passes, and interspersed, as we have mentioned, with towers at equal distances, until, after a course of 1500 miles, it ends in impassable mountains and sandy deserts. It is not alone the size of this wall which fills the spectator with wonder, it is the extreme difficulty of conceiving how the materials could be carried, and such a building raised in places seemingly not to be come at, that principally occasions surprize and admiration. One of the highest ridges of mountains, over which the great wall passes, it has been found out, measures 5225 feet above the level of the sea.

Along the northern boundary of China, lies Tartary, and the great wall was erected by the Chinese as a line of separation between the two countries, and also as a means of defence. Nothing, indeed, can be more different than the manners of the nations lying at each side of this wall. The Tartars were a race of hunters, constantly roving about, and changing their place of residence, as often as they were obliged by the want of pasture for their cattle: taking no care to cultivate the ground, and, of course, as barbarous and fierce in their manners, as men will always be, whose mode of living is unsettled. The Chinese,

on the contrary, were early civilized, industrious, fond of agriculture, and therefore happy and contented. The wall was constantly manned with soldiers, to beat off any attack of their plundering and restless neighbours; and, for fifteen hundred years, fully answered the purpose for which it was built. Before the invention of cannon, a rampart of this kind was always built as a means of defence, yet all of those united, that were ever constructed, would not equal the wall of China alone, either in the quantity of materials employed, or the extent of ground over which it is carried, or the labour requisite to conquer the difficulties of situation. It has likewise far exceeded them in solidity and duration; many parts, indeed, of this great wall, are falling to decay, because the Chinese have extended their authority beyond the limit it was formerly intended to guard—yet the main work appears in most places to have been built with a degree of care and skill, which have preserved it entire for above 2000 years, and it seems, at this day, as little liable to decay as the mountains over which it is carried. It is said that one third of the able bodied men in China

were employed in building it. The workmen were ordered, under pain of death, to place the materials so close, that not the least entrance might be afforded for any instrument of iron. It was built and finished in the short space of five years, but owing to the fatiguing journies and change of climate, which the labourers from the distant provinces had to undergo, the greater part of those employed in the work died before it was completed. It is also reported that the labourers stood so close to each other, for many miles, that they could hand the materials from one to another. This seems the more probable, as the rugged rocks, among which it is built, must have prevented all use of carriages; and neither clay for making bricks, nor any kind of cement is to be found among them.

To this account of the most astonishing production of human labour and industry, to be met with on the face of the earth, we may add, that if to its prodigious length of 1500 miles, we assume that its size is nearly the same throughout, as in the part where it was crossed by the British Ambassador, it contains materials more than snfficient to erect all the dwell-

ing houses in England and Ireland, even supposing their number to be one million eight hundred thousand. In this calculation, the huge masses of stone, called towers, are not included, which of themselves would erect a city as large as London. To assist the conception of our readers still further, respecting this singular and prodigious fabric, we shall only observe, that its materials would be sufficient to build a wall six feet high, and two feet thick, whose length, 50,000 miles would twice surround the world.

MOUNT VESUVIUS.

No. 4.

MOUNT VESUVIUS.

A VOLCANO, or burning mountain, may be considered as a cannon of immense size, the mouth of which is turned upwards, and is often nearly two miles round. From this opening are thrown torrents of flame and sulphur, and rivers of melted stone, called Lava. Whole clouds of smoke and ashes, also, with rocks of enormous size, are discharged to many miles distance, so that the force of the largest cannon is, in comparison, but as a breeze driving a feather. In the deluge of fire and melted matter, which runs down the sides of the mountain, whole cities are sometimes swallowed up and consumed. Those rivers of liquid fire are sometimes 200 feet deep, and, when they harden, frequently form considerable hills. Nor is the danger of these confined to the eruption only; it frequently produces earthquakes through the whole country where the volcano is situated, and so dreadful have been these appear-

ances, that men's terrors have made them regard as signs of the divine anger, what we know to be the result of natural causes. We know that there are certain substances, such as lime which become hot when water is poured on them, and often endeavour to burst with great force; these therefore, being lodged in the bowels of the earth, or in the depths of the mountains, and being washed by waters, which accidentally flow in, take fire, and at length, breaking through every obstacle, make their dreadful discharge in a volcano.

Volcanoes are found in all parts of the earth. In Europe, the most remarkable is Vesuvius, as well on account of its frequent eruptions, as from being at the distance of ten miles only from Naples, one of the largest cities of Italy, and surrounded by a delightful country, where every thing grows in the greatest plenty. The mouth or crater of Vesuvius, is a mile across, and from this vent, were thrown the ashes, stones, &c. which, about seventeen hundred years ago, overwhelmed the ancient city of Herculaneum, the ruins of which have been lately discovered, at sixty feet distance below the surface of the earth. The following

accounts of two eruptions, which occured in the years 1707, and 1717, are given by two eye-witnesses of what they relate : —" Towards the latter end of summer, 1707, Mount Vesuvius, which had been for a long time silent, began to give some signs of an eruption. Little more than murmurs at first were heard ; no flames, nor even smoke was yet seen. Soon after, some smoke appeared by day, and a flame by night, which brightened all the country round; every now and then, it shot off substances, with a sound like that of cannon, but, even though at a great distance, infinitely louder. In a short time, it began to throw up ashes, which fell at many miles distance. To this succeeded showers of stones, which killed many inhabitants of the valley, and made a dreadful ravage among the cattle. Soon after, a torrent of burning matter began to roll down the sides of the mountain, at first with a slow and gentle motion, but soon with greater swiftness. The matter thus poured out, seemed, when cold, like glass, and harder than stone. Hitherto, there were no appearances, but what had been remarked before ; but on the third or fourth day, seeming flashes of lightning

were shot forth, with a noise far exceeding the loudest thunder. After this, followed such clouds of smoke and ashes, that the whole city of Naples, in the middle of the day, was covered with darkness, and people were unable to distinguish each other. If any person attempted to stir out without a torch, he was obliged to return, and every part of the city was filled with terror. At length, after a continuance of some hours, the wind blowing from the north, the stars began to be seen, the sky to appear, and the eruptions, after a continuance of fifteen days, to lessen."

"In the year 1717, and the middle of April, I reached with much difficulty," says the narrator of the second eruption, "the top of Mount Vesuvius, in which I saw a vast opening, or mouth, full of smoke, which hindered me from seeing its depth and figure. I heard within, a noise like that of thunder, and sometimes, as the wind changed, the smoke grew thinner, discovering a very ruddy flame, and the sides of the crater or mouth streaked with red and several shades of yellow. After an hour's stay, the smoke being moved by the wind, gave us short and

partial views of the great hollow, in the flat bottom of which, I could see two furnaces close to each other; that on the left seeming about three yards over, glowing with red flame, and throwing up red-hot stones with a hideous noise, which, as they fell back, caused a clattering sound. On May the 8th, the smoke ascending upright, gave me a full view of the crater, which was about a mile round, and a hundred yards deep. A mount had been formed within, since my last visit, and in this, remained the two furnaces already mentioned. The one was seen to throw up, every three or four minutes, with dreadful noise, a vast number of red-hot stones, at least three hundred feet higher than my head, but as there was no wind, they fell back into the place from whence they had been discharged. The other was filled with red-hot liquid matter, like that in the furnace of a glass-house, raging and working like the waves of the sea. This matter would sometimes boil over, and run down the sides of the funnel-shaped hill, appearing at first red-hot, but changing colour as it hardened and cooled. Had the wind driven in our faces, we should have been in no small danger of

stifling, from the sulphureous smoke, or being killed by the melted stones that were shot from the bottom. On the 5th of June, the mountain was seen by the inhabitants of Naples, to work over, and about three days after, its thunders were renewed, so that all the houses shook. One cannot form a juster idea of the noise, than by imagining a mixed sound made up of the raging of a storm, the roaring of the sea, and the sound of cannon and thunder, all confused together. Though we heard them at a distance of twelve miles, yet it was very terrible. I therefore resolved to approach nearer to the mountain, and after riding four or five miles from the town, which is at its foot, we came to the river of fire that was running down the sides from the volcano, and here the roaring grew loud and terrible as we approached. I observed a mixture of colours in the cloud above the mouth; green, yellow, red, blue; there was likewise a red dismal light over that tract where the burning river flowed. Imagine a vast torrent of liquid fire rolling from the top, down the side of a mountain, and with fury bearing down and consuming vines, olives, and houses, and divided into dif-

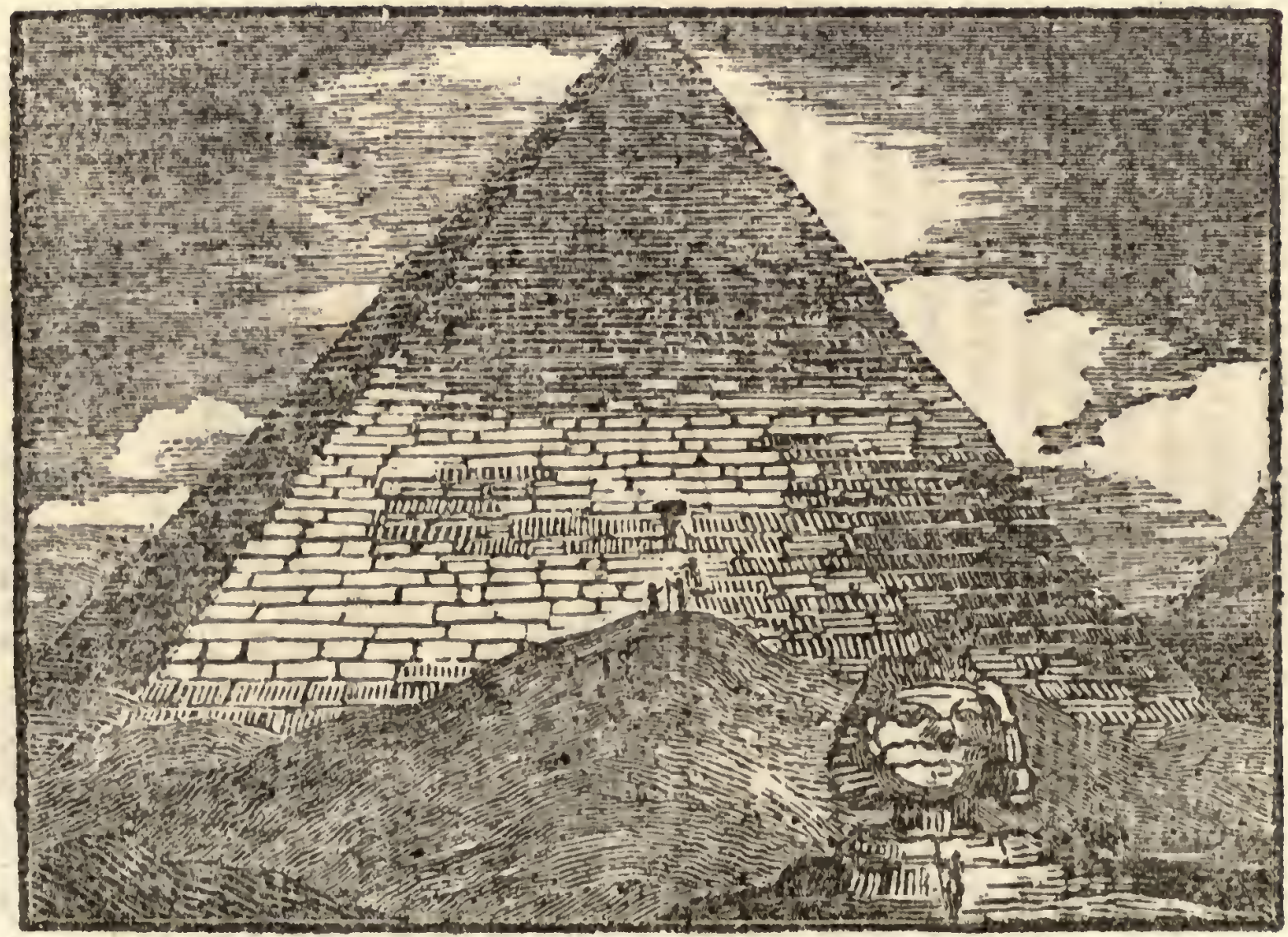
ferent channels, according as the mountain became uneven. The largest stream seemed half a mile broad, and five miles long. I walked so far before my companions, up the mountain, and along the side of this burning river, that I was obliged to retire in great haste, the sulphureous steam having surprised me, and almost taken away my breath. During our return, the roaring of the mountain was heard all the way, while we observed it thundering up large spouts of fire and burning stones, which falling, resembled the stars of a rocket. These burning columns seemed to be shot a thousand feet high above the top of the volcano, and in this manner, the mountain continued raging for six or eight days after. On the 18th of the same month, the whole appearance ended, and the mountain was perfectly quiet, without any visible smoke or flame.

A burning mountain is a grand spectacle, but we shall understand more clearly the violence with which it sometimes rages, by a short account of Pompeii, a town overwhelmed by the ashes thrown from Vesuvius, about 1800 years ago, and discovered by a farmer, who, working in his vineyard, struck his spade against the

wall of a house, and led to the discovery of this city under ground.

By degrees, during the last sixty years, the workmen have cleared away the ashes, which choked up the streets, and covered the houses; the temples and theatres are still in high preservation; the houses appear as if stripped of their roofs by a violent storm; the tracks of carriage-wheels are still to be observed upon the pavement, and the traveller, forgetting for a moment the calamity which befel the city, wonders at the deserted appearance of the streets, which are as silent as if a plague had suddenly swept away the inhabitants. On one side, he sees the guard room, where the soldiers had amused themselves drawing chalk figures on the walls. On the other, he enters the work shop of a statuary, or maker of images, where several unfinished statues were found, and which, perhaps, were employing him at the moment when the shower of ashes caused his death. Rooms are to be seen with garlands of flowers, and handsome pictures painted on their plaister walls; and in a shop where liquors were sold, may be observed the marks of cups left by the drinkers on the marble table.

There are several circumstances which prove, that the mass of ashes must have come down in such immense quantities, as to cover the inhabitants at once. When they saw the darkness which suddenly overspread the country, and heard the roaring of the mountain, which is about five miles distant, they attempted to escape, carrying with them whatever they thought most valuable. In one part were found seven skeletons; the first carried a lamp; and the rest had between the bones of their fingers, something that they had wished to save. In the court-yard of a house, were two others, one with a key, the other with a purse grasped in his hand. These did not experience the torment of a lingering death, since they were not forced, even in its agonies, to drop what they were holding. But those, who took refuge in the cellars under ground, (and in one house twenty skeletons were found in this situation,) must have experienced a tenfold more cruel death than those who perished in the open air.



THE PYRAMIDS OF EGYPT.

No. 5.

THE PYRAMIDS OF EGYPT.

The name of Egypt, an extensive region in Africa, reminds us of many circumstances in its ancient history, which strongly interest us. It was the place where every thing happened which we read of in the beautiful and affecting history of Joseph. Here Pharaoh oppressed the Israelites, during the course of 400 years slavery to the Egyptians. Here, too, Moses was born, and afterwards preserved, in his little cradle, among the flags that grew on the banks of the Nile. Here, through him, the Egyptians were afflicted with many grievous plagues, before they could be persuaded to "let Israel go"—and here, Moses, with his rod divided the waters of the red sea, and the people of Israel passed it on dry land, while the Egyptians, attempting to follow, were overwhelmed by the returning of the waters. But the object which now draws the traveller into this country is the Pyramids, in the neighbourhood of Cairo, each of which is supposed to be the sepulchre of a king, Time,

which has destroyed, in a greater or less degree, every thing that has been built a long while since, has scarcely been able to produce any effect upon the pyramids; the solidity of their construction has secured them against every attack, and seems to promise that they shall last to the end of the world. If they be approached in the morning, they are seen at the distance of 30 miles, rising above the sand like pointed rocks covered with clouds; but it is only from a nearer view that an idea can be formed of their amazing size. What a time it must have taken to build them! What multitudes of people must have been assembled to raise a monument which has, for so many thousand years, outlived the builders; and what a strange desire to preserve from decay the perishing materials of which our bodies are made!

It is remarkable, that these superb monuments are no where to be found but in Egypt. Indeed there is one at Rome, which serves for a tomb to Caius Cestius; but it is no more than a mere imitation, and is surpassed in size by the least of those in Egypt. These are situated upon the rock, at the foot of the high mountains that are ranged along the side of the river Nile, and separate Egypt and Lybia. They

have been all raised as sepulchres; but the manner in which they are built, as well on the inside as without, is extremely different, with respect to distribution, materials, and grandeur; some are open, others ruined, and most of them are closed; but there are none that have not been in some degree damaged. The prodigious quantity of materials used in constructing them, renders it impossible that they should have been all built at the same time; and those that have been the last erected, greatly surpass the first in grandeur and magnificence. They have been built so very long ago that even the writings of the oldest historians which has come down to our time make no mention of them. It is not improbable that the invention of pyramids was owing to the ignorance of the people, in having no other method of covering a great space, before the art of arching and employing columns to support a roof, was invented.

The common people of Egypt have a belief, that there were formerly giants in that country, who raised, without much difficulty, the pyramids, and the vast palaces and the temples, whose remains are at present the subjects of our admiration. But

this ridiculous opinion is answered, by observing, that, had this been the case, the entrance of the caves, from whence they have drawn stones for these purposes, would have been larger than they are; that the gates of the buildings which are still standing, would have had more height and breadth; that the passages of the pyramids, at present so narrow, that scarcely a man of our times can drag himself along lying on his belly, would have been by no means proper for men of such a size; and that the coffin in the largest and last pyramid, is a proof of the falsehood of all such foolish ideas, since we see from it the size of the prince's body for whom the pyramid was built; and the passages shew, that the workmen were not of a larger size than the prince, since the entrance scarcely gives sufficient room for men of the common height.

The principal pyramids are at the south east of Gize, a village three hours voyage up the Nile from Cairo, and situated on the western shore. As it is believed that the city of Memphis was near this place, they are commonly called the pyramids of Memphis. On your arrival there, you find four of the pyramids that deserve the

greatest attention of the curious traveller; for though there are seven or eight others in the neighbourhood, they are not to be compared with the former, especially as they have been almost entirely ruined. The four principal are about 400 paces distant from each other. Their four faces exactly correspond to the four cardinal points, the north, the south, the east, and the west. The two most northerly are the greatest, and are 500 feet high, and according to Mr. Greaves, who measured the bottom of the first, it is exactly 693 English feet square; and therefore covers something more than eleven acres. The number of courses in the masonry has been very differently related; but they are between 207 and 212. These serve as steps for climbing up the side of the pyramid, and are from two feet and a half to four feet high, and broad in proportion to the height. It appears that the rock at the foot of the mountains, not being every where level, has been smoothed by the chisel. This rocky plain is about 80 feet high above the level of the ground that is always overflowed by the Nile, and is 3 miles round.

A pyramid is the most solid figure that can be given to any building. There is no way to ruin it but by beginning at the top; for it rests upon a base too firm to be attacked in that part, and whoever would undertake it would find as much difficulty as there was to raise it. It was not long since a chief of that country, expecting to find great treasures in one that had not been before opened, employed some hundred workmen to break a passage to the centre. For several months the labour went on, but the expence of paying and supporting the labourers becoming very great, and the quantity of rubbish to be cleared away so enormous, that he was obliged to give up the hope of enriching himself in this way.

The most northern of these great pyramids is the only one that is open: and on this account, as well as because it is the largest, we shall confine ourselves to a description of it. It is necessary to be very near it, in order to form a just idea of the extent of its enormous bulk. The celebrated architect, Inigo Jones, is said to have calculated that the base of the pyramid would cover the area of Lincoln's

Inn fields, the largest square in London, so that the pyramid, if placed in it, would touch the houses on the opposite sides, and perhaps, the enclosure of Stephen's Green, in Dublin, would be found nearly of the same extent. The only object the pyramid can at first be compared to, is a mountain, and this, for a moment, weakens its effect; if, however, from a short distance, you should see a numerous body of men creeping up the side of a building, one hundred and twenty times higher, and upwards of five hundred times broader than themselves, and appearing like insects crawling up a rock, the presence of such a measure will give an idea of its extraordinary size, and of the time and labour it must have cost to raise it. The outside part is chiefly built of great square stones, cut from the rock, which extends along the Nile, where to this day we see the caves from whence they have been taken. We find that their outside parts are only joined by the weight of the stones, without mortar, without lead, and without cramps of any metal; but in the body of the pyramid they have been obliged to use a mortar made of lime, earth and clay. This plainly appears at the entrance

of the second passage of the first pyramid, which has been opened by force. At its four corners, it is easily perceived, that the lower stones are placed on the rock without any foundation; but beyond them quite to the middle of each face, the wind has formed a slope of sand, which on the north side rises so high, that it affords, along with the stones and rubbish cleared out by the workmen, as they broke a passage, a convenient ascent to the entrance, which is about sixty feet high.

On getting up to the entrance you discharge a pistol to frighten away the bats, after which, two Arabs, whom you are obliged to have for your attendants, enter, and remove the sand with which the passage is almost stopped up. After these precautions, you strip yourself to your shirt, on account of the excessive heat constantly felt in the pyramids: In this condition you enter the passage, every one of the company having a wax-candle in his hand; for the torches are not lighted 'till you are in the chambers, for fear of causing too much smoke. Being arrived at the end of the passage, you find an opening barely a foot and a half in height, and two feet in breadth; yet through this

hole you are obliged to ascend. The traveller, instead of creeping, commonly lays himself down, and each of the two Arabs, that go before, takes one of his legs, and thus they drag him through over the sand and dust.

On having passed this strait, which is luckily no more than twenty-four feet long, you find a large place, where you commonly take some refreshments; and this gives courage for penetrating into the second gallery.

It is here proper to observe, that all these passages, are nearly of the same size, that is, three feet and a half square, and lined on the four sides, by great stones of white marble, so polished, that this, with the slope, would render them impassable, were it not for little holes cut for resting the feet in. It costs a great deal of trouble to advance forwards, and if you make a false step, you will slide backwards to the place from whence you set out: however, by observing these holes, you proceed commodiously enough, though always stooping, to the end of the second passage, where there is a resting-place, on the right hand of which is an opening into a kind of well, wherein nothing is

to be found but bats, that have built their nests there; and you descend not by means of any steps, but down what appears a kind of well, in the same manner as chimney-sweepers descend a chimney.

At the end of this resting-place begins the second gallery, leading to the lower chamber. It runs in a straight and level line. Before the chamber are some stones, with which the way is embarrassed, but with some trouble you get over that difficulty; and find that the inside of the chamber is also covered with stone. This chamber has a sharp raised vault, and is throughout coated with granite, once perfectly polished, but at present extremely black with the smoke of the torches used in visiting it. Whoever would examine the way through which they have drawn the stones into this room, must expose himself to the same ceremony as is practised in passing from the first gallery to the second, but few are willing to take that trouble, as it is known that it does not reach far, and there is nothing to be seen in it but a niche.

Having visited the lower chamber, you return to the resting place, and ascend upwards by fastening your feet as before,

until you meet with a little platform. You must afterwards begin to climb again; but soon finding a new opening, where you may stand upright, you see a sort of little room, which is at first no more than a palm's breadth larger than the galleries, but enlarges itself afterwards on both sides; and at length, by stooping for the last time, you pass the remainder of the third gallery, that leads in a level line to the upper chamber, which, like the former, is coated and covered with great stones of granite. On the left side is a coffin of granite, of the figure of a long box, without any ornament. It is extremely well hollowed, and, on being struck, sounds like a bell. Near this coffin, you perceive a very deep hole, made since the building of this pyramid was finished. It is probable that there was a hollow place underneath; for it looks as if the pavement had sunk in. In this chamber are also two little passages, which are nearly choaked up with stones thrown in by the curious to know their depth.

While in this room, people commonly fire a pistol, which makes a noise like thunder. You then return in the same manner you came, and with the same

difficulty, on account of the stones and sand with which the entrance is obstructed.

As soon as you are out of the pyramid, you dress, wrap yourself up warm, and drink a glass of some strong liquor to preserve yourself from a pleurisy, occasioned by the sudden change from an extremely hot to a mild air. At length having gained your natural heat, you mount up to the top of the pyramid, in order to enjoy a prospect of the country around it. The method of getting up is by the angle to the north-east; and when the steps are high, or one step entirely broken away, you are obliged to look for a convenient place, where the steps are entire, or a high step is decayed away, so as to make the ascent more easy. On the top you perceive, as well as at the entrance, and in the chambers, the names of abundance of people, who have at different times visited this pyramid, and were willing to inform those who should in future visit it of their being there. Herodotus, an historian who lived 450 years before Christ, supposes that this pyramid was built by Cheops, King of Egypt.

Coming down by degrees from the rock on which the pyramid is built, you arrive at the Sphynx, whose enormous bulk deserves attention. This figure has the body of a four-footed animal, with the face of a female, and is supposed to be emblematical of the rise and fall of the Nile. It is cut in one piece out of the solid rock, and what have been thought by some to be joinings of the stones, are veins in the rock. At present, only the head and neck of the figure are visible, together with the top of the back, the rest being covered by the sand, which in this spot is continually drifting. From the fore part of the neck to the tail, the length is upwards of 113 feet; the chin measures 10 feet 6 inches in height, and the whole face 18 feet; the beginning of the breast is 33 feet wide; the whole height above the sand 27 feet; and notwithstanding the greatness of these dimensions, the justness of the proportions, and the expression of the features, denote a period when the art of carving in stone was far advanced towards perfection. We have no means of knowing the time when it was built, though it is most probably of the same date with the pyramids.

The four great pyramids, which differ but little in size, are surrounded by a number that are smaller, and which have for the most part been opened; and two of them are in such ruins, that one cannot even see the inner chamber.

Some time after, I went to visit the pyramids of Saccara, which are not ten miles distant from those of Gize. One of these is built of unburnt brick, which seems to be made of the mud brought from the Nile; it being of a sandy black earth, with some pebbles and shells in it; and mixed up with chopped straw, in order to bind the clay together, as unburnt bricks are now made in Egypt; and like those which the people of Israel were obliged to make for the Egyptians during their slavery.

We shall now take a view of the ancient methods observed by the Egyptians in embalming human bodies, after death in order to preserve them. According to Herodotus, there were certain persons appointed for this business, who had three prices according to the beauty of the workmanship. In the most esteemed method of embalming, they got out the brains through the nose with a crooked

iron, and then poured in drugs; afterwards they opened the body, took out the bowels, washed the inside with palm wine, and having rubbed into it pounded perfumes, filled it with myrrh, cassia, and other spices, and then sewed it up. After this, they washed the body with nitre, then let it lie seventy days, and having washed it again, wound it up in swathes of linen, besmearing it over with gums, which the Egyptians use instead of glue. The relations then took home the body, and inclosing it in the wooden figure of a man, placed it in the catacombs or places, where the dead are laid up. Another method of embalming was, injecting turpentine of cedar, with a pipe, into the body, without cutting it; they then salted it for seventy days, and afterwards drew out the pipe, which brought the bowels with it: the nitre dried up the flesh, leaving nothing but skin and bones. The third way was only cleansing the inside with salt and water, and salting it for seventy days.

It has been mentioned, that the pyramids are situated not far from the river Nile. We shall now add a short account of this river, reckoned among the largest

in the world, and of the extraordinary manner in which its yearly rise causes the crops in Egypt to be so abundant.

From the earliest times, so many unsuccessful attempts had been made to discover the sources of the Nile, that is, the place from whence it begins to flow, that "to seek its rise" became a proverb, to signify the impossibility of any undertaking. Within the last fifty years. it is known to have its beginning in the mountains of the moon, which stretch across the southern part of Abyssinia, (a region of Africa, in the 8th degree of north latitude,) and the enterprising traveller, who visited its springs, has traced the whole of its course northwards, for upwards of 2000 miles, till it falls by its two great mouths into the Mediterranean Sea. In the country of the Agows, a tribe of Abyssinians, and at the height of two miles above the level of the sea, Mr. Bruce found three round little hills, built of sods, on which the natives perform their religious ceremonies, as upon an altar. Three rills issue from them, which join, and form a stream about two perches wide. After various windings, the Nile at length increases to the size of a river, and at Alata, forms

a magnificent cataract; a sheet of water, a quarter of a mile in breadth, falling down a precipice forty feet in height: here, the river, even when swelled by the rains, retains its clearness; the noise of the waterfall resembles the loudest thunder, and the stream, after tumbling down into a natural bason of rock, appears to run back against the foot of the precipice, forming a great number of eddies and waves. Notwithstanding the great increase of its waters, the natives pass it at all times, either on goat-skins blown up like bladders, or by twisting their hands round the tails of their horses, which swim over. At length, the Nile enters upon a narrow valley, not more than 27 miles wide, bounded on each side by a ridge of mountains, which confine the river, as it were, between two barriers. From the channel of the Nile to the foot of the hills on each side, canals or trenches are cut, by which the whole country may be covered with water at the time of the overflowing. The valley continues to Cairo, and is called Upper Egypt. Lower Egypt is that country between Cairo and the Mediterranean Sea. Below Cairo, the Nile divides into two great branches, enclosing

a plain, cut in all directions by canals, and called the Delta, because it is in the shape of a triangle, like the Greek letter called Delta.

The whole of the Delta is thought to have been formed by the earth brought down from Æthiopia and Abyssinia, and the inner parts of Africa, by the Nile. This appears to be the case from the nature of the soil, which is a black and fat mud, and quite different from the red sandy soil of Lybia on the one side, and the craggy and stony soil of Arabia on the other. The breadth of the Delta at the lowest part is about 160 miles.

In the lowest cataract of the Nile, the rock, which bars the middle of the river, is bare for six months of the year; boats are then pulled up and let down its sides. During the overflowing, the waters, heaped up between the mountains, form one great sheet, and breaking down every obstacle, spring from a height of eleven feet. The boats can no longer go up the stream, and merchandize must be conveyed six miles above the cataract; they, however, go down as usual, and suffer themselves to be plunged into the gulf. They slide into it

with the rapidity of an arrow, and in an instant are out of sight. They rise again at some distance, where the water becomes calm: but, to prevent accidents, it is necessary for the boats to be moderately laden, and that the boatmen, who held by the stern, should be in exact balance, otherwise they would be dashed to pieces in the gulf.

The Nile begins every year to rise, about the middle of June, and continues rising about forty or fifty days—it then sinks by degrees, till, in the end of May next year, it is at the lowest. It does not, however, rise equally high through all Egypt; at Cairo, where it is confined to one channel between high banks, the full height is at least 24 feet above its ordinary level. At Rosetta, nearer to the sea, it is only four feet. As soon as the Nile begins to rise, all the canals, which have been made to convey water through the country are shut and cleansed. When the river rises to a certain height, (which is measured on a pillar called a Nilometer, or Nile Measurer, erected in the island of Rhodda, in the middle of a bason, joining with the Nile, and, at a small distance from Cairo,) the canals are per-

mitted to be unlocked and opened, and the usual tax for the waters is paid to the Sultan or King of the country. Towards the end of June, it has risen about nine feet, when it is proclaimed through the streets of Cairo; before the 20th August, however, its height is greatest, when the water is allowed to pass through the canals, and cover the whole country. This is a season of great rejoicing; the people express their gratitude to God for the favourable harvest which is ensured to them, and cry out in their language, that God has given them abundance. Unless the Nile rise to a certain height Egypt pays no tax—perhaps the just measure is 24 feet; 18 feet and below, or 27 feet and above it, will produce a famine. In the years 1783 and 1784, Egypt was afflicted with a dreadful famine, the Nile not having risen to the favourable height. The breadth of the river, at Cairo, is nearly half a mile, so that we may judge, what a quantity of rain must fall in the high lands, to produce this effect.

During the overflowing, nothing is to be seen but cities and villages, which are all built on hills, either natural or made by men. When the waters sink, and the

ground is horoughly dried, the labour of the husbandman is easy. He has nothing to do but to turn up the soil, and mix with it a little sand to take away its rankness; then he throws in the seed, and in a short time, the whole country is covered with the richest verdure. The same field produces 2, 3, and sometimes 4 different crops. Vegetation is so strong, that some plants, in twenty-fours, send out shoots 4 inches long. The same cause, however, prevents foreign plants from thriving longer than a year, so that they who cultivate them, are obliged annually to change the seed.

The regularity of the winds in Egypt, is another remarkable circumstance that deserves to be mentioned. During the months of June, July, August, and part of September, they blow almost always from the north—the vapour, which the sun's heat raises from the Mediterranean Sea, collects into clouds, and is driven, by the wind, towards the south—there it meet the mountains of Abyssinia, and falling in rain, forms those torrents, which swell all the streams that flow into the Nile, and wash down the slime and earth by which Egypt is fertilized. In the Delta,

it never rains during the summer, and hence the heat would be intolerable, were not the inundation to lessen its violence. Thus we are furnished with another proof, that Providence is every where active in producing the happiness of man, and in correcting, by various wise contrivances, the badness of the soil, or the severity of seasons. The very existence of the natives depends on the regularity of the Nile's overflow, for otherwise they would all die of hunger—and we have seen the beautiful arrangement, by which abundance is secured to a country of great extent, and abounding with people.

No. 6.

THE FALLS OF NIAGARA.

At the distance of eighteen miles from the town of Niagara, are those remarkable falls in Niagara river, justly ranked amongst the greatest natural curiosities in the known world. A number of lakes connected one with the other, covers a vast extent of ground in the upper parts of North America, and this wonderful cascade occurs in the river Niagara, which connects two of them, Lakes Erie and Ontario. The river, instead of growing narrower as you proceed upwards, widens considerably: at the end of nine or ten miles it widens to the breadth of a mile, and here it assumes much the appearance of a lake: it is enclosed, seemingly on all sides, by high hills, and the current, owing to the great depth of the water, is so gentle as to be scarcely visible from the top of the banks. It continues thus broad for a mile or two, when on a sudden, the waters are contracted between the high hills on each side; from hence to the falls, the

current is exceedingly irregular and rapid. At the upper end of the river, and at the foot of the banks, is situated a small village, that has been called Queenstown, but is best known in the country by the name of the "Landing," where merchant vessels leave the goods that are to be sent higher up the country. The distance they are to be carried to the nearest navigable part of Niagara river, above the falls, is nine miles.

It was an early hour, says a traveller, who has been lately there, that we left the town of Niagara, in order to visit those great waterfalls. Owing to the unfavourble state of the weather, we approached within a short distance, without receiving any notice of our being near it; yet it is, nevertheless, strictly true, that the tremendous noise of the waterfall may be distinctly heard at the distance of forty miles; and the cloud, formed by the spray or mist which rises from it, may be seen still farther off. A short time after, when sailing on Lake Erie, at the distance of fifty-four miles, we saw, with the naked eye, a small white cloud, which, we were assured, was that overhanging the falls. All the other clouds in the horizon, in a

few minutes, disappeared by degrees, whereas, this one remained steadily fixed in the same spot, and on looking at it through a glass, it was obvious, that its shape changed every instant, owing to the continued rising of mist from the cataracts beneath.

On that part of the road leading to Lake Erie, which draws nearest to the falls, there is a small village, from whence, crossing over some fields towards a deep hollow place, we descended a steep bank of about fifty yards, until, at length, we came to the Table Rock, so called from the remarkable flatness of its surface, and its bearing some resemblance to a table. This rock is situated a little to the front of the great fall, above the top of which it is elevated about forty feet. The view from it, is truly grand, but before we attempt to give an idea of it, it will be necessary to take a more general survey of the river and falls.

Niagara river issues, as has been already mentioned, from the end of Lake Erie, and, after a course of thirty.six miles, discharges itself into Lake Ontario: to within three miles above the falls, the river runs evenly and is navigable with safety for boats—here the bed becomes rocky,

and the waters are so violently agitated by passing down successive rapids, that were a boat to be carried but a little way beyond Chippeway, where people usually stop, nothing could save it from being dashed to pieces, long before it came to the falls. Notwithstanding this impetuosity, which, seen from the banks, is sufficient to make one shudder, it is only on each side of the river that the waters are so much troubled; in the middle of it, though the current be swift, yet the breakers are not so dangerous, but boats may pass down to an island, which divides the river at the very falls. If they were suffered to get out of their course ever so little, either to to the right or left, they would be violently carried towards the falls, and destruction must follow. The difficulty in returning is still greater, yet numbers of persons have the hardihood to expose their lives, for the sake of seeing the falls from the opposite side.

The river forces its way amidst the rocks with redoubled force as it approaches the falls: at last coming to the edge of the precipice, it tumbles headlong to the bottom, without meeting any rocks in the descent, which could break the fall; however, the river does not rush down in one unbroken sheet, but is divided by islands

into three distinct falls—the largest of these is called the Horse-Shoe Fall, from its shape—the height is 142 feet, and from the centre, arises that prodigious cloud of mist which may be seen so far off. The whole breadth of the precipice, including the islands, is 1335 yards; the breadth of the Horse-Shoe-Fall alone, is 600 yards, that of Fort-Schloper-Fall, 350 feet, and the quantity of water carried down the falls, is said to be, 169,344,000 gallons in a minute.

From the Table Rock, on the edge of the Horse Shoe Fall, the spectator has an uninterrupted view of the tremendous rapids above the falls, of the Horse Shoe Fall some yards below him; of Fort Schloper Fall at a little distance, and of the frightful gulph beneath, into which, by advancing to the edge of the rock, he may look down. The astonishment excited by the vastness of the different objects, is so great, that the eye cannot take in the whole of it at once; it must by degrees become acquainted with the several parts of the scene, each of which is, in itself, an object of wonder; and so long a time does this require, that many, who have had an opportunity of examining it for years, have thought, at each visit, that it

appeared more wonderful and sublime. In winter, the appearance is different and more wonderful. The ice collects at the bottom of the cataract, in immense hills; and huge icicles, like the pillars of a large building, hang from the top of the precipice, reaching nearly to the bottom.

The next place from which the falls are to be viewed, is at the bottom of the cataract. Having, by ladders, descended the cliff, which is of considerable height, we proceeded along the river side, which is covered with rocks and great piles of stone, that have fallen from the sides. Here, were great numbers of the bodies of fishes, squirrels, foxes, and various other animals, that, unable to stem the current of the river above the falls, had been carried down them, and consequently killed and washed up. The shore is likewise found covered with trees and large pieces of timber, which have been swept away from the saw-mills above the falls, and carried down the precipice. The timber is generally much shattered, and the carcases of all the large animals, particularly of the large fishes, dreadfully bruised. A stench arises from the quantity of putrid matter lying on the shore, and numberless

birds of prey are always seen flying about the place.

Amongst the numerous stories current in the country, relating to this wonderful cataract, there is one, concerning the fate of an Indian, the truth of which is unquestionable. This unfortunate creature, intoxicated with spirits, had laid himself down to sleep at the bottom of his canoe, which was fastened to the beach at the distance of some miles above the falls. By some accident the rope was loosed, and the canoe, of course, went adrift. It quickly floated away with the stream, and, before many minutes, was carried down the rapids. Here it was distinctly seen by several persons that were standing on the shore, whose attention had been caught by the appearance of a canoe in such a part of the river. The violent motion of the boat soon awoke the Indian; he started up, and, perceiving his danger, instantly seized his paddle, and made the most violent efforts to save himself; but finding, in a little time, that all his efforts would be o f no use, he, with great composure, laid aside his paddle, wrapped himself up in his blanket. and again laid himself down in the bottom of his canoe. In a few seconds he was hurried down the precipice : but

neither he nor his canoe were ever seen more.

There is nothing to prevent you from passing to the very foot of the Horse-Shoe Fall, and proceeding even behind the prodigious sheet of water, that comes pouring down from the top of the precipice, for the water falls from the edge of an overhanging rock. I advanced within six yards of the edge of the sheet of water, just far enough to peep into the caverns behind it, which have been scooped out of the rocks by the violent action of the water; but here my breath was taken away by the violent whirlwind, occasioned by the fall of such a vast body of water against the rocks. No words can give a proper idea of the awful grandeur of the scene at this place—the sight of such an immense river, pouring down so close to you from the top of the precipice, and the thundering sound of the water, dashing against the rocks, together with the danger of tumbling from the slippery rock on which you stand, into the gulph beneath, from whence all the power of man could not save you—impress the mind with awe and reverence of the Almighty Being, who commanded the waters to flow.

No. 7.

THE ANDES, OR MOUNTAINS OF SOUTH AMERICA.

Among the most remarkable mountains of the earth, are the Andes, which rise to a prodigious height; their summits are constantly covered with snow, refusing every attempt at cultivation, and so cold as to be uninhabitable even by the hardiest animals. Some travellers, however, have had the courage to visit these lofty regions, and, though exposed to the greatest hardships and dangers, have made such observations as enable us to form a very true idea of their general figure.

Before entering upon a description of those, which, from their height and magnitude, claim a place among the *Wonders of the World*, it should be mentioned, that the greatest mountains are in the middle parts of the earth, where the sun's heat would be intolerable, were it not moderated by the cold which they produce. The vapour, which rises from the sea and ground, forms clouds, which, floating in

the air, are carried forwards by the winds; at length, they strike against the summits of mountains, which suddenly rendering the mass colder, it discharges a quantity of rain or snow, the drops of the former running down the sides, unite in streams, brooks, and rivers, to fertilize the plains below. In the hottest parts of the earth, therefore, the tallest mountains will be found, and flowing at their foot, the largest rivers, affording an instructive proof of the goodness of God, who provides every where for the comfort and happiness of man, and has given to those lands, which he designed should be inhabited, a means of preventing the parching heat of the sun from being intolerable.

The Andes, are an immense chain of mountains, which run through the whole Continent of South America, in a direction from South to North. They extend from Cape Pilares, in the Straits of Magellan, to the kingdom of New Spain, passing through a space of not less than 4600 miles, as they generally follow the windings of the Eastern Coast, at the distance of about 100 miles from the sea.

The double ridge of the Andes in Quito, which rises to an amazing height, and

exceeds that of most other mountains in the world, is better known than any other part of this great range. The country between those two ridges, (which, like two walls, separate it from the rest of America) is described as being extremely delightful. Though situated in that part of the earth where the sun is hottest, it is, owing to its great height, blest with a mild climate, under which all sorts of European grain, and all the fruits and flowers of Europe, come to perfection. The two ridges are distant from each other between twenty and twenty-five miles, and within these narrow bounds, is contained all the population of this wonderful country. Towns are here built, containing from 30,000 to 50,000 inhabitants, and those who have lived for a short time in this elevated spot, forget by degrees, that every surrounding object, the villages full of industrious inhabitants, the fields covered with herds of native cattle, and flocks of European sheep, or promising the richest harvests, hang, as it were, suspended in the lofty regions of the air, at the extraordinary height of 9000 feet, or nearly a mile and a half, above the level of the sea.

When viewed from the central plain, these mountains are so arranged, that far from hiding each other, they present themselves in their real shape, as if thrown on the deep blue colour of the sky. Some of them are burning mountains, which throw out, to a prodigious distance, huge pieces of rock, and other substances; Cotopaxi is the loftiest of these, being 18,874 feet above the sea. On one occasion, the flames rose 2900 feet above the crater or mouth; on another, the roaring of the volcano was heard at a distance of 600 miless or above twice as far as the whole length of Ireland from North to South; and the eruption which took place in 1803, was preceded by the sudden melting of the snow which covered the mountain, and at 150 miles distance, the noise of the volcano was heard, day and night, like the firing of cannon. The most majestic form, however, is that of Chimborazo, the top of which is round. After the long rains of winter, when the air is clear, Chimborazo appears from the shores of the South Sea, like a white cloud, rising above the neighbouring tops, and higher than the whole chain of the Andes. According to the observations of

Baron Humboldt, and Mr. Bonpland, Chimborazo is 21,440 feet above the sea. The travellers ascended to the height of 19,300 feet, but were prevented from proceeding by a chasm 500 feet wide. The air was so cold, as to render breathing difficult, the blood oozed from their eyes, lips, and gums; one of the party fainted, and all of them felt great weakness. Notwithstanding these hardships, they succeeded in measuring the most of the great mountains, and found the average height of the whole chain, to be more than two miles above the level of the ocean.

Ulloa, who travelled by command of the King of Spain, has well described the gradual change from heat to cold, as he ascended one of these mountains, and the view which he enjoyed from its top. "After," says he, "having travelled for upwards of three days, through boggy roads, in which the mules, at every step, sunk up to their bellies, we began at length to perceive an alteration in the climate; and having been long accustomed to heat, we now began to feel it growing sensibly colder. At Tariguagua, we often saw instances of the effects of two opposite temperatures, in two persons happening

to meet; one of them leaving the plains below, and the other descending from the mountain. The former thinks the cold so severe, that he wraps himself up in all the garments he can procure, while the latter finds the heat so great, that he is scarcely able to bear any clothes whatsoever. The one thinks the water so cold, that he avoids being sprinkled by it; the other is so delighted with its warmth, that he uses it as a bath. This difference proceeds merely from the change naturally felt, at leaving a climate to which one has been accustomed, and coming into another of opposite temperature. The ruggedness of the road is not easily described. In some parts, the declivity is so great, that the mules can scarcely keep their footing, and in others, the declivity is equally difficult. There are some places, where the road is so steep, and yet so narrow, that the mules are obliged to slide down, without making the least use of their feet. On one side of the rider, rises an eminence of several hundred yards, and on the other, there is an abyss of equal depth, so that, if he in the least checks his mule, they must both unavoidably perish. After having travelled

nine days in this manner, slowly winding along the side of the mountain, we began to find the whole country covered with a hoar frost. At length, after a journey of fifteen days, we arrived upon a plain, at the extremity of which stands the city of Quito, the capital of one of the most charming regions upon earth. Here, in the centre of the torrid zone, the heat is not only very tolerable, but, in some places, the cold, also, is very painful, Here they enjoy all the temperature and advantages of a perpetual spring, their fields being always covered with grass, and adorned with flowers of the most lively colours. However, though this beautiful region be higher than any country in the world, and altho' it took so many days of painful journey in the ascent, it is still overlooked by tremendous mountains, their sides covered with snow, and yet flaming with volcanoes at the top. These seemed piled one upon the other, and rise to a most astonishing height. However, at a determined point above the surface of the sea, the snow is found at the same height in all the mountains. Those parts which are not subject to a continual frost, have growing upon them, a sort of rush, very soft and pliant;

higher up, the earth is entirely bare of vegetation, and seems covered with eternal snow. The most remarkable mountains are the Cotopaxi, Chimborazo, and the Pichincha. The first is more than three geographical miles above the surface of the sea. The rest are not much inferior. On the top of the latter, I suffered particular hardships, from the severity of the cold, and the violence of the storms. The sky around was, in general, involved in thick fogs, which, when they cleared away, and the clouds, by their weight, had sunk nearer to the surface of the earth, appeared surrounding the foot of the mountain, at a vast distance below, like a sea encompassing an island in the midst of it. When this happened, the horrid noises of tempests were heard from beneath, discharging themselves on Quito and the neighbouring country. I saw lightning issue from the clouds, and heard the thunder roll far beneath me. All this time, while the tempest was raging below, the mountain-top, where I was placed, enjoyed a delightful serenity; the wind was abated, the sky clear, and the rays of the sun moderated the severity of the cold. However, this was of no long

duration, for the wind returned with all its violence, whilst my fears were increased by the fall of enormous rocks, the only sound that was heard in this dreadful situation."

Along the lower parts of the Andes, gentle eminences and pleasant vallies, encompassed with hills, are dispersed; but the principal ridge generally rises abrupt and steep, with frequent precipices. It is here, that the appearance of the mountains is most sublime, their height carrying them above the clouds, and covering their tops with perpetual snow. Lower down, where the snow is only occasional, naked rocks, and barren sandy deserts present themselves, bordered, however, with various kind of mosses that grow in the crevices, and afford a beginning of vegetation. A kind of ivy, or rushy grass succeeds. This distinguishes those tracts in which no trees grow, and where no rain, but only snow, falls, though it seldom lies for any considerable time. Amidst these regions of frost and barrenness, volcanoes of various dimensions appear at intervals, to give variety to the scene, and add to its sublimity. From

Cotopaxi to the South Sea, no fewer than forty are constantly burning, some of them, especially the lower ones, throwing out heated stones, and other materials, mixed with a large quantity of water. An eruption of this kind happened on the 19th of July, 1698; the sides of the mountain were rent by the violence, torrents of mud and water issued through the crevices, and laid waste the neighbouring country; this dreadful calamity was accompanied by an earthquake, which, in the towns near the mountain, swallowed up thousands of inhabitants. In these lofty regions, the Condor, a fierce and powerful kind of vulture, has fixed his abode. The hollows are never without snow even in summer, and many rivers and torrents roar and foam through their rugged channels, till they break forth and extend themselves on the plain. In the winter, travellers are in great danger of being frozen to death, by attempting to pass these mountains, and many, every year, lose their lives in the attempt.

The mountains of a lower elevation, are covered with stately forests, and it is down

their sides, and though the dark chasms that sink between them, that those numerous torrent flow, which swell the rivers of South America, some of which are reckoned amongst the largest in the world. Most of the torrents that are passed in travelling over the Andes, are fordable, though, when increased by rains, they have detained travellers for several days; but when they are too deep to be forded, or the banks too steep to be ascended, bridges are thrown over them of a singular make, but such as are found to answer the purposes required. Where the river is very narrow, with high banks, they are formed of wood, and consists of only four long beams, laid close together over the precipice, and forming a path of about a yard and a half in breadth, just sufficient for a man to pass on horseback. These bridges, from custom, have become so familiar to the natives, that they pass them without fear, yet some idea will be formed of the frightful appearance of the chasm below, from the depth of the noted crevices of Chota and Cutaco, the former measuring 4950, the latter 4300 feet, in a perpendicular descent. Where the breadth of the river will not admit of any beam to

be laid across, bridges constructed of a thin elastic cane are thrown over, so as to form a large cable of the length required; six of these cables are stretched from one side of the river to the other, two of them serve as a rail, and are considerably higher than the other four, which, being covered with sticks laid across, form the bridge, which is passed by men, the mules swimming over. All travellers have spoken of the great danger of passing the rope-bridges, which look like ribbons suspended over an impetuous torrent. This danger is not very great, however, when a single person passes over the bridge, as quickly as possible, with his body leaning forward. But the swinging of the ropes becomes very strong, when the traveller is conducted by an Indian, who walks quicker than himself; or when, frightened by the view of the water, which he sees through the spaces between the canes, he has the imprudence to stop in the middle of the bridge, and lay hold of the ropes that serve as a rail. Some of the rivers of the Andes are passed by means of an invention called a *tarabita*. This machine carries over, not only the passengers, but also their cattle and burdens, and is used

ELASTIC CANE BRIDGE.

to pass these torrents, when the rapidity, and the large stones continually rolling along them, render it impossible for the mules to swim over. The contrivance consists of a single rope made of the same elastic cane, and thrown across the river, on each bank of which it is fastened to strong posts; on one side is a wheel to tighten or slack the tarabita to the degree required. From this rope hangs a kind of leathern hammock, capable of holding a man, to which a rope is fastened for drawing it to the side intended. For carrying over mules, two ropes are necessary, and they are much thicker and slacker. The animal being suspended from these ropes, and secured by girths round the belly, neck, and legs, is shoved off, and immediately landed on the opposite shore.

Among the rugged and unfrequented paths of the Andes, various dangers and fatigues await the traveller. In many places the ground is so narrow, that the mules can hardly find room to set their feet, and in others, it is a continued succession of precipices. These paths are full of holes, in which the mules set their feet, and draw their bellies and their

riders' legs along the ground; the holes serve as steps, but should the creature happen to set his foot between two of these holes, or not place it right, the rider falls, and if on the side of the precipice, inevitably perishes. This danger is even greater when the holes are wanting, for the tracks are extremely steep and slippery, and, in general, so chalky and wet, that Indians are obliged to go before, with small spades, to dig little trenches across the path. In descending these places, where there are no holes or trenches, and which are sometimes many hundred yards in length, the instinct of the mules is admirable, and shews them sensible of the caution required in the descent. On coming to the top of an eminence, they stop, and having placed their fore-feet close together, as in a posture of stopping themselves, they also put their hind-feet together, but a little forwards, as if going to lie down. In this attitude, having, as it were, taken a survey of the road, they slide down with the swiftness of the wind. All the rider has to do, is to keep himself fast in the saddle, without checking his beast; for the least motion is sufficient to disturb the balance

of the mule, in which case they must both inevitably perish. The address of these creatures is here truly wonderful; for in this rapid motion, when they seem to have lost all government of themselves, they follow exactly the different windings of the path, as if they had before attentively observed, and settled in their minds, the road they were to follow.

The vallies of the Andes, which present the wildest and most terrific scenes, give rise, also, to several other peculiarities in the mode of travelling, which deserve to be noticed. In many parts, the streams which flow down the mountains, have hollowed out gullies, from 20 to 25 feet deep. The path-way, which runs along these crevices, is frequently not above a foot, or a foot and a half in breadth, and has the appearance of a gallery, dug and left open to the sky. In many places, the opening above is covered by the shrubs, which grow out from both sides, so that the traveller is forced to grope his way in darkness along this singular passage. The oxen made use of as beasts of burden, can scarcely force their way through; and if the traveller should meet them in one of the passages, he has no means of avoid-

ing them, but by climbing up the earthen wall which flanks the road, and keeping himself suspended, by laying hold of the roots of trees. In other parts of the Andes, such is the state of the roads, that the mode of travelling, for persons who can afford it, is in a chair, tied to the back of a carrier, and thus they go for fifteen or twenty days together. The usual load of a carrier is from 160 to 180 pounds weight; those who are very strong carry as much as 210; and though they must suffer enormous fatigue, carrying such loads for eight or nine hours a day, over a mountainous country, though their backs are often as raw as those of beasts of burden, and their pay but trifling, the employment is eagerly sought for by all the stout young men, who live at the foot of the mountains.

It has been mentioned that the torrents which flow down the sides of the Andes, unite to form some of the largest rivers, with which we are acquainted. The rapidity of these waters affords a singular mode of sending messages or letters between distant places. The Postman there, travels, not conveyed in a mail-coach, nor riding on horseback, nor even

on foot, but swimming, which he does for two days together, first, down the river Chamaya, and afterwards, down that of the Amazons: he wraps the letters in a kind of handkerchief, which he winds like a turban round his head; in this manner, he swims through the most rapid parts of the river, supporting himself on a small log of very light wood; when a ridge of rocks crosses the channel, he lands above the cascade, crosses the forest, and takes again to the water when he has passed the danger; after he has rested himself a few days, he returns by land. It is very seldom that letters are lost by this conveyance, or even wetted.

Among the productions for which this country is remarkable, are the quantities of gold and silver, which are yearly dug out of the bowels of the earth. The mines of Mexico and Peru, however, so long the objects of envy and admiration, contain within them, what would soon cause destruction; the whole chain of the Andes is subject, as we have seen, to the most terrible earthquakes, whilst the inhabitants of other countries are totally free from the danger to which America is thereby exposed.

From the lofty elevation of the Andes, they possess every variety of climate; at the heights of from 3000 to 5000 feet, the heat is like that of spring, the extremes of heat and cold being equally unknown; and at that of 16000, the ground is perpetually covered with snow; at the altitude of 9000 feet, the large trees of every kind begin to disappear, by reason of the increasing cold, until, as we ascend, the occurrence of mosses only, starting through the patches of snow, reminds us, that Nature will not suffer her productions to grow in places unfit for the habitation of man.

THE END.

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